BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY NEWSLETTER

OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 2026 - ISSUE 41



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



Summer is over, we have celebrated harvest, nights are drawing in and we are now into Autumn. Thank you for your generous giving in our Harvest altar service, which raised around £1500. And now shops are full of things for Halloween – as well as (of course) Christmas selection packs. Autumn can be a season which people want to skip over – looking forward to winter and Christmas. But I think it is a beautiful time. The colours we can see in the autumn sunlight as the leaves change colour and fall can be beautiful.

One autumn nearly 3000 years ago, there was celebration in Jerusalem which also marked generous giving. Solomon had built the temple. The time had come to bring the Ark of the Covenant to its place in in the Holy of Holies and to dedicate the temple. It was a great event, with the entire assembly of Israel present, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.(1 Kings 8:5). Solomon prayed a long prayer, finishing with acknowledgment of the faithfulness of God. He prayed not just that God would be with His people, but also that the people would be faithful to God:

Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. [57] May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. [58] May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands.
(1 Kings 8:57-58)

Solomon then sacrificed ANOTHER 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats. God had been so faithful to the Israelites and they had reached the destination they had been seeking for so long. Sadly it was not to last: after a golden time under Solomon, within a couple of generations the kingdom started to fall apart as people's faithfulness to God waned. This autumn, as we continue on our journey towards celebrating God's greatest gift at Christmas, let us allow God to continue to turn our hearts to Him, to walk in his ways.

God bless
Philip & Carrie James, Majors



Bedlington Salvation Army Presents

The North East Fellowship Band

Saturday 17th October @ 19:00

Hartford Road West NE22 6HU

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

Message from the CSM



I love this time of year for the light. Often when I get up in the morning, the early morning sunlight is on a corner of our garden near our water feature. It's a soft warm glow. When we go out into the countryside, the autumn colours glow enhancing the shades of the changing leaves and heathers and some late flowering plants bring some welcome splashes of colour. How easy it would be to miss these magical gifts from God in the busyness of our lives.

We are blessed beyond measure to have shelter, food, warmth, family and fellowship. We need to be praying for those in the world who are suffering under conflict, not of their making, those who are starving and those who are living in fear and suffering. I will be focussed at this time in finding ways to help others who are not as blessed as I am and thanking God again for the blessings he has given me. Will you join me?

Every Blessing
Jill



DIVISONAL VALEDICTORY FOR ANLWICK AND ASHINGTON CORPS

Wednesday 4th November

Worpship at 19:30 with refreshments from 18:45

Bedlington Salvation Army
Hartford Road West NE22 6HU

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Harvest Weekend Celebrated at Bedlington

Bedlington Salvation Army recently celebrated its Harvest Weekend with a special weekend of worship, fellowship and thanksgiving.



The weekend began with a successful evening gathering of a pie and pea supper, followed by the Harvest Service on Sunday morning. The Corps was delighted to welcome Majors Nigel and Kim Gotobed, who led the worship and shared in the ministry of the morning. The congregation was encouraged to give thanks for the many blessings and provisions we can sometimes take for granted, including food, homes, families, friends and, above all, the gift of Jesus.

The service included contributions from the Corps' young people, with the singing company performing Cornerstone and the YP Band presenting All Good Gifts. Both were warmly received and provided an opportunity to celebrate the important role our young people continue to play within the Corps.

A fun and memorable part of the morning was an interactive harvest story, involving members of the congregation working together to pull up a giant imaginary cabbage! The story provided a simple but powerful reminder that everyone has a part to play and that, as God's people, we need to work together.

The service also reflected on the changing nature of Harvest celebrations over the years, while reminding everyone that the heart of Harvest remains the same — giving thanks to God for His provision and considering how we use the gifts He has given us. The message focused on the importance of sowing good seeds in our lives and not becoming weary in doing good.



The weekend also provided an opportunity to support the wider work of the Corps. Gifts received will help support the food bank and practical work within the local community, as well as helping young people through activities such as Summer School.

Our thanks go to everyone who contributed to the Harvest Weekend, including those who donated produce, took part in the services, supported the young people and helped behind the scenes. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Corps family to come together, give thanks and celebrate God's goodness.

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



Youth Selling Cake at Divisional Fellowship Band

During the evening of our visit from the Divisional Fellowship Band on Saturday 17th October, our young people will be holding a bake sale to raise additional funds towards Music Weeks and Summer School in 2027.

If you are able to attend, please remember to bring some extra cash with you to support the sale. We are sure our young people would really appreciate your support, and every contribution will help towards these important activities.

Divisional Enabled Fellowship Weekend



A reminder that the Divisional Enabled Fellowship Weekend will be taking place in South Shields on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October.

Saturday will begin at 10:30am and will be a day of fun, fellowship and worship, concluding at 3:30pm. Please remember to bring a picnic lunch with you.

On Sunday 25th October, there will be an afternoon worship service starting at 2:30pm.If you require any further information or details about the weekend, please speak to Jill, who will be happy to help.



Youth Council Postponed

The Divisional Youth Council, which was due to take place this month, has been postponed until 2027. Further information regarding the rearranged date will be communicated once it has been received. Alternatively, please keep an eye on the Divisional social media accounts for any announcements and updates.

Bedlington Corps Archive

We are in desperate need of Corps stories and historical material, as at the moment we are unable to properly tell the story of the Corps and the history we have gathered so far.

A number of people have mentioned over the past while that they have material, photographs, stories and memories that they would be able to contribute, but unfortunately we are still waiting for much of this to come through.

We really need to get this material in as soon as possible so that we can begin putting everything together and start building the full story of the Corps.

If you loan us any physical items, we promise to return them once we have finished using them. and for more info speak to either Jill Moore or Daniel Mercer.

Bedlington Corps Archive

We have not received any indication from our previous newsletter for identification of pictures and when they where 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 newpapers.

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 Kitty Brewster 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.

BEDLINGTON.

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.

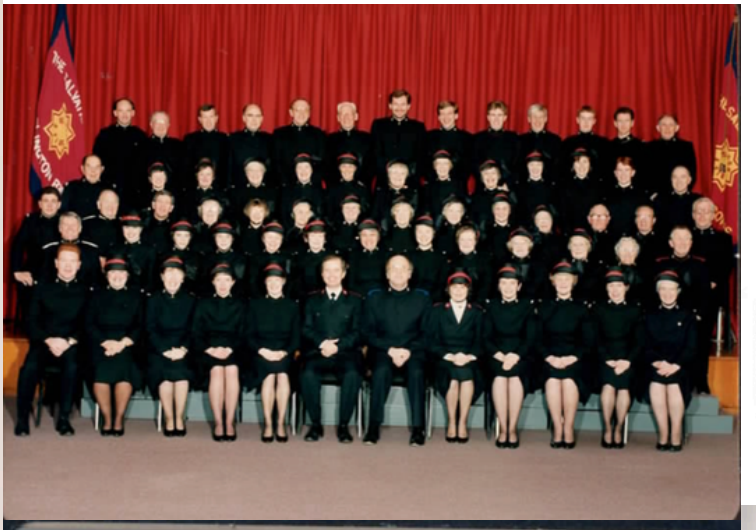
One man said I thank God that he has spared me, for I was a great sinner, I was so bad, I was too bad to live. I used to go out and spend all my wages; once I was so bad I brought a large stone into my house with a lot of snails on it, and I told my family that they had to live on these the next fortnight 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. 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 the Army junior meetings, which made her very happy. I had no objection but 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 pleasure trips when the weather was fine. Edna was not happy about missing the junior meetings and it came to the point when I said, 'If your religion is going to interfere with our pleasure, then you must go no more.'

Edna invited me to the Army's Mother's Day meetings, but I ignored the invitation as I had done many others. Arriving home that day, she said, 'All the other mummies were at the Army today but 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 road accident 100 yards away from our home, and for me, life just stood still.

The Salvation Army officers and soldiers of the Bedlington Corps proved to us that The Salvation Army was all that it stood for. We were left with a baby girl of thirteen months.

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

In her childlike way, Edna had shown her desire for me to tread

(Continued in column 5)

(Continued from column 4)

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. SECCOMBE'S 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 October

Saturday 17th
Divisional Fellowship band at Bedlington, 7:00pm

Wednesday 21st
Men's fellowship - 7:30pm

Thursday 22nd
PCC Meeting

Monday 26th
Home League

Wednesday 28th & Friday 30th
No Parent and toddlers (half term)

Corps Calendar In November

Wednesday 4th
Divisional Meeting for Alnwick & Ashington - 7:30pm

Sunday 8th
Remembrance Sunday Service at 10am - March from 2pm

Saturday 14th
Taste and see day Stockton

Sunday 15th
Youth Weekend

Wednesday 18th
Men's fellowship - 7:30pm

Saturday 21st
Christmas Fayre 11.00am-1.00pm

Monday 23rd
Home League Carol Service

Saturday 28th - Sunday 29th
ISB at Sunderland Monkwearmouth

Sunday 29th
First Sunday in Advent - toddlers and YP carol service