

# SALVATIONIST

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THE SALVATION ARMY

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3 December 2011

No 1324

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South American Salvationists

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**PLUS LOTS MORE!**



# An international God

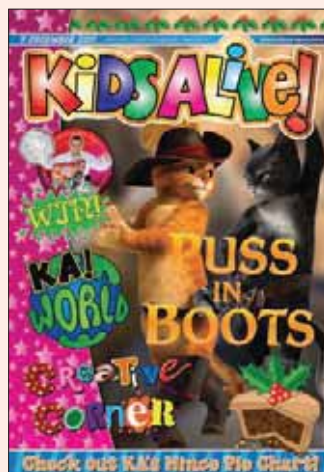
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■ ALL CHANGE IN 'MATILDA' MUSICAL

■ CHILDREN'S AUTHOR SALLY LLOYD-JONES RETELLS THE CHRISTMAS STORY

■ POSTER REFASHIONS NATIVITY



■ 'PUSS IN BOOTS' HITS THE BIG SCREEN

■ 'KA!' JAM SERIES GOOD AND FAITHFUL GOD

■ MAKE A CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

■ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL READER PROFILES

## THIS WEEK'S QUOTES FROM THE PAPERS

### GUIDE TEACHES PEOPLE TO LISTEN BETTER TO SERMONS

**The College of Preachers is to publish... a guide that intends to help members of congregations to develop 'better sermon listening'.**

**The booklet, 'How To Listen To Sermons...' says that preaching is 'an event in which the listeners play a full part'...**

**The Director of the college... said... 'We shouldn't think of the sermon as something imposed... but as something good that happens when the preacher speaks well and the rest of us listen well.'**

*Church Times*

### THIS WALES

Seen in the *South Wales Echo*:

**'The Bible promises Jesus will return to the earth at the Twyn Community Centre, Caerphilly Town Centre... God willing.'**

Sent by Stan Wiltshire to *Daily Mail*

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**The directors of *The Baptist Times* very much regret to announce that the paper will cease publication at the end of 2011...**

**Due to falling circulation and difficulties of selling advertising space... the Trustees decided that financial support for the paper would cease.**

*The Baptist Times*

### GENDER THEORY 'DESTROYING THE FAMILY'

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, head of the Congregation for Bishops, has condemned 'gender theory' as part of an 'anthropological heresy' threatening traditional marriage and the family...

The Canadian cardinal... said this theory, widely promulgated in Western academia and the wider culture, purported to negate sexual differences that are rooted in human nature. 'It follows that if the biological data of man and woman is secondary, one can construct one's own gender identity as one pleases.'

*The Tablet*

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# In lands beyond the sea



(Commissioner Keith Banks)

*'Show me the world  
With its suffering and fear,  
Show me each heartache  
And show me each tear.  
Show me a world that is struggling to cope;  
No place for Christ, no incentive to hope.  
I will your servant be...'*

**M**Y reading as I commute at the moment is *Essentials Of Christian Experience* by General Frederick Coutts.

I commend it to you as a classic Salvationist text, but I mention it here because the chapter I read as I trundled from St Albans to the Elephant and Castle on the morning of writing this Comment was entitled 'The Decisive Experience'. It might just as suitably have been entitled 'God's Way With Me', which is of course the title of the articles that appear in *Salvationist* from time to time to highlight the special ministry of the International College for Officers, the latest of which is on pages 12 and 13.

I make the comparison because Coutts deals eloquently and wisely with the question of conversion – God's way with

any of us – and personal testimony. You'll need to put the book on your Christmas present list to find out more, but SP&S would be very happy to help you with that.

God's way with Majors Colin and Rosemary Cowdery was to invite them to serve him in Pakistan and, in order to demonstrate what good value *Salvationist* represents, I draw your attention to Rosemary's Bible study on page 16. The majors have no doubt encountered many decisive experiences over the years but have been sustained throughout by the decisive experience that was theirs when they first committed their lives to Christ.

Speaking of Pakistan, I had a surprise some years ago when the Pakistan Territorial Commander rang from Lahore to float the idea of Heather and me upping sticks in order to commence new appointments there. Mrs Poxon was as keen as mustard – not the biggest shock I've ever had – but honesty compels me to report that my interest waned considerably when it was suggested I work as property secretary. I know roughly as much about Army property as I do about goat herding on the Khyber Pass – probably less, actually – and I had to find a polite way of explaining that point, lest the suggestion became an appointment and the entire personnel of The Salvation Army in Pakistan had me to blame for rotten rendering and problematic plumbing.

For all that, I love the fact that ours is a Movement spanning much of the globe. I have a note scribbled in my songbook reminding me that Psalm 96 proclaims a God who is a) International, b) Impressive and c) Inviolable. By all means, refer to those points if ever you feel the need, but, for now, celebrate with me our international Army. It's a magnificent thing. An international God, though, is better altogether. John 3:16 confirms that – and, into the bargain, reminds us of the basis of our decisive experience.

MAJOR STEPHEN POXON, EDITOR

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**NEWS**

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ChathamBramwellHouseCentralSouthLeek  
GainsboroughMaidstoneBristolKingswood  
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Stars out in force to celebrate Christmas with the Army

London

'CHRISTMAS starts with Christ!' declared Territorial President of Women's Ministries Commissioner Betty Matear from the 'snow'-adorned stage at the Royal Albert Hall.

The commissioner's opening statement during the Celebrating Christmas With The Salvation Army event – 'Thirty-two days until Christmas! – drew collective groans and laughter from the audience even as they took in the beautifully lit stage featuring glittery decorations, trees and an array of talented actors, present-



A packed Royal Albert Hall

Pictures: PAUL HARMER

ers and musicians. However, beyond the spectacular staging came the simple truth – and the evening's theme – that the

legacy of Christmas is: Faith. Hope. Charity. The commissioner later encouraged: 'Let us approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.'

Throughout the evening the audience had plenty of opportunity to join the Army's celebrations through carol-singing accompanied by the International Staff Band and Songsters and by organist Michael Clack (Chalk Farm) – with an additional singalong segment led by International Staff Songster Leader Dorothy Nancekievill with Kettering's Bandmaster Richard Phillips at the piano.

General Linda Bond, Chief of the Staff Commissioner Barry Swanson and Commissioner Sue Swanson, Territorial Commander Commissioner John Matear, General John Larsson (Retired) and Commissioners Freda Larsson and Gisèle Gowans were welcomed as they joined celebrations too, which this year combined seasonal items with those more closely fitting the theme.

Intertwined with contributions from the International Staff Band and Songsters were eloquent introductions by compère Colin Buchanan – an actor best-known as 'Pascoe' from TV's *Dalziel And Pascoe* – and readings by actors June Whitfield and Nigel Planer and popular TV and radio presenter Judith Chalmers. The audience benefited from the readers' telling of the Nativity story as they drew on years of theatre and broadcasting experience to envelop everyone with their spellbinding storytelling.



The International Staff Songsters



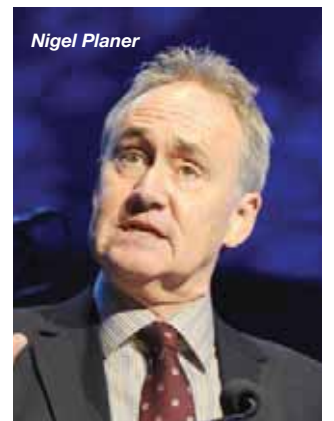
June Whitfield



Judith Chalmers



The International Staff Band



Nigel Planer



**Compère Colin Buchanan**

work of the Red Shield Defence Services with a particular focus on how The Salvation Army is getting alongside new, young military recruits as they prepare to go to war and supporting them as they address concerns. The staff sections accompanied vocal soloist Gerard Bentall as he sang 'Band Of Brothers' – a powerful and theatrical complement to the film of the Army's work, emphasised with the words, 'My friends you're not alone... we stand together brave and true'.

Linking to the second part of the theme, Colin Buchanan introduced the next segment as 'Hope. The Salvation Army's stock in trade.' The film illustrated the Movement's work in bringing hope to people's lives through its Lifehouses. In particular, the testimony of recovering alcoholic 'Craig' was featured. He described the support of staff at Swan Lodge Lifehouse, Sunderland, after he hit rock bottom and how they helped him to fight his addiction and progress from the Lifehouse to move-on accommodation. He testified: 'My change doesn't just affect me, it affects my family and friends.'



**Commissioner Betty Matear**

The ISS picked up on the theme of bringing hope to those without it as they sang out the words 'People need the Lord... at the end of broken dreams he's the open door' and vocalist Alexandra Ward (Castleford) – back this year by popular demand – continued this theme with her choice of the emotive 'Candle On The Water'. Not only did she captivate with her stunning voice, but her words cast shivers as they gently spotlighted the Movement's aim to be compassionate and offer hope – 'A cold and friendless tide has found you, don't let the stormy darkness pull you down. I'll

paint a ray of hope around you... lighted by a prayer.'

Considering the final part of the theme: Charity – or Love as it is best translated – Colin described how the Army exercises that love across the world, officially in 124 countries. He commented: 'What motivates all this work? Charity. Or love. A love Salvationists feel compelled to share.'

Taking his words as their cue, the staff songsters sang 'Compelled By Love' while a montage of films of the international Army at work played on the large stage-side screens.

Commissioner Betty Matear then reunited the three theme elements as she focused the audience's mind on God's word. She declared the Christmas story 'a love story of faith, hope and charity' which are 'gifts not just for Christmas – they're for life'. She acknowledged the gifts as 'spiritual in their source and powerful enough to turn the world upside down'.

Considering those without hope, she reminded the audience: 'Hopelessness stops humanity flourishing. We need Christ – he is the demonstration of a loving God,' and encouraged them to look for opportunities to love – that is 'make it better for others'.

Her gentle reminder that Christmas is in the heart of God, and God can be in the heart of each person, preceded her concluding prayer that 'faith, hope and charity be present in your Christmas'.

From reverie, the audience then entered into a period of lively celebration as Richard took to the piano for a Christmas singalong.

The evening's climactic conclusion featured the staff sections and vocal soloist Nicholas Lester (Regent Hall), who sang the dedicatory song 'I'll Walk With God'.

Lieut-Colonel Marion Drew (THQ) brought the evening to a conclusion with a note to the audience to check broadcast listings for highlights of the programme on BBC radio.

The staff band then struck up 'Shining Star' to send the audience on its way with Christmas, and all the true gifts it brings, fresh in their minds. – C. A.

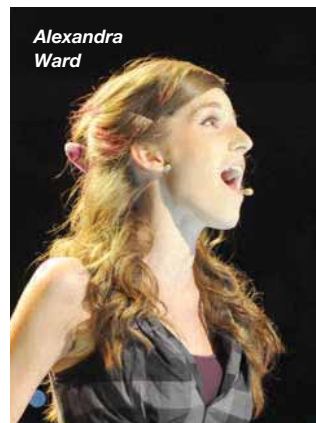
Each story was further enhanced by the sensitive playing in the background of the Scratch Band, which featured strings, brass and piano.

The ISB provided something for everyone with 'We Three Kings' and 'The Little Drummer Boy', while the ISS began with 'Lux Aurumque' before utilising less seasonal songs to highlight the theme and blend films, illustrating the Army's work, into the body of the programme.

The first film featured the



**Nicholas Lester**



**Alexandra Ward**



**Gerard Bentall**



**Staff Songster Leader Dorothy Nancekievill, Commissioner John Matear, Colin Buchanan, Commissioner Betty Matear and Staff Bandmaster Stephen Cobb**

## International leaders inspire South American Salvationists

### South America West

SALVATIONISTS and friends in Bolivia were invigorated and inspired by the visit of Chief of the Staff Commissioner Barry Swanson and World President of Women's Ministries Commissioner Sue Swanson. The visit was the first ever by a Chief of the Staff to Bolivia Central Division and the first for many years to Bolivia Altiplano Division.

The Swansons began their visit in the Altiplano Division, where they were shown around day-care centres that provide assistance to children and teenagers from vulnerable areas of La Paz. They also travelled out of the city to the historic community of Tiahuanaco – where the people speak Aymara – to see the work of an Army community centre.

Home league members from Tiahuanaco had prepared a large framework featuring coloured *aguayos* – pieces of cloth used in traditional communities – to demonstrate the joy they felt in being visited by the commissioners. Commissioner Sue Swanson spent time with the home league in the small room where it meets every week.

Back in La Paz, the visitors went to Achachicala and El Tejar Centres, each of which provides programmes for 350 children and teenagers.

In a united meeting, the Swansons and territorial leaders Commissioners Jorge and Adelina Ferreira witnessed Salvationists worshipping in a style that combined traditional Salvation Army music with native shapes and rhythms.

It was a special occasion for the Huajara Outpost from Oruro, which received a new flag from the territorial leaders, recognising its new status as a corps.

In his Bible message the Chief challenged every Salvationist to preach the gospel. Many people went to the mercy seat at the end of what had become a night of joy and victory.

A brass band, officers and soldiers were waiting at Jorge



Wilsterman airport, Cochabamba, to welcome the Chief, Commissioner Sue Swanson and the territorial leaders to Bolivia Central Division.

At an officers' meeting the Chief explained with conviction the thinking behind the recently launched International Vision – One Army, One Mission, One Message.

In a TV interview later in the day, the visitors took the opportunity to speak about the work of The Salvation Army in Bolivia and throughout the world. It turned out that one of the interviewers had been born in the Army's Harry Williams Hospital.

The hospital was the focus of attention the next day, when medical staff, Salvation Army soldiers, patients, community members, construction professionals and a representative of SEDES – the government agency which oversees health provision hospitals – gathered for the dedication to God and official opening of a new building.

It was made clear that, just as a building needs good foundations, so the work at the Harry

Williams Hospital needs to keep God as its foundation, with the staff being even more important than the building. After the prayer of dedication and ribbon-cutting, everyone had the opportunity to tour the new facilities.

A Saturday evening festival showcased some of the talents of the division's Salvationists. Christian dance, timbrel displays, mime and Christian folk and brass band music attracted the attention of people passing by. A programme for children, with the message 'Hear and obey' ran at the same time as the festival. Children were given balloons and Army flags.

At the Sunday morning holiness meeting praise and worship choruses gave way to the sound of a brass band for the entrance of flags representing corps and centres from across the division. This prepared the way for the entry of divisional and territorial leaders. Finally, the international visitors made their entrance, receiving a joyous reception from Salvationists and friends.

Enthusiastic dance items were presented by Catalina Booth

Kindergarten and the divisional timbrelists.

After the Chief of the Staff's Bible message many people moved forward to pray at the mercy seat (pictured).

The meeting finished with flags waving and paper streamers flying as Salvationists and friends showed their happiness and thanksgiving to God. – A. C./G. F.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE

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## Army responds to floods

### Latin America North

THE Salvation Army in Central America is providing assistance to people affected by severe flooding. Heavy rains that started in October have caused more than 90 deaths in the region, with the worst problems in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Official data show that more than half a million people are affected, with at least 100,000 having left their homes in order to stay safe.

Reports from the territory indicate the damage to infrastructure and agriculture is massive, with

pre-existing poverty in many of these areas making the situation even more difficult. Some communities have not been reached and there is a pressing need for food, shelter and clean water.

In Nicaragua, the Army is distributing food and has given clothes, mattresses and blankets to almost 700 people; in El Salvador around a thousand people have been given food, hygiene articles and medicine. An outpost in Gualache, El Salvador, has become an emergency shelter for 150 displaced people.

Further emergency relief assistance will be provided where needed and as funds become available. – A. R.



Open-air witness is fruitful

Regent Hall

DELEGATES from the latest session at the International College for Officers augmented the annual march to a Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, which included laying a wreath at the Edith Cavell memorial.

As the march reached Whitehall the band played 'Under Two Flags' which proved popular with the crowd. The service included a short Bible address and a wreath-laying ceremony.

Earlier in the day, a passer-by,

attracted by the open-air meeting, attended the morning meeting and knelt at the mercy seat. – A. R.



Act of Remembrance

Reading Central

IN the presence of the Mayor of Reading (Councillor Deborah Edwards), Jennifer Strange (County Secretary of the Royal British Legion) announced the standards of the Legion and service organisations to be presented and which were paraded into the hall as the band played 'Victors Acclaimed'.

Corps officers Majors Alison and Iain Hudson led the 34th annual Service of Remembrance. Guest speaker, the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Andrew Proud, took as his theme Dreams And Visions. Vocal soloist Debbie Crane sang 'I Vow To Thee My Country'.

In an Act of Remembrance, County Chairman of the British Legion Trevor Knights brought the exhortation and Bandsman Mark Dallas sounded Last Post. – P. B.



Lifelong Salvationist Frances Westwood (Willenhall) celebrates her 100th birthday with friends and family in her home at Manor House

Picture courtesy: Express and Star

Recordings from SP&S

SONGS THAT NO ONE TAUGHT US

**Alvin and Karl Allison**  
Brothers Karl and Alvin Allison have been around the Salvation Army musical scene for a couple of decades now. Their outspoken rock evangelism in bands such as Blood and Fire, The Eden and The Big Picture wasn't always appreciated or perhaps understood by traditionalists yet separately they committed their talents to work and worship in contemporary culture. The contemporary styles represented in *Songs That No One Taught Us* have really been mainstream for years. Styles – plural – because every track on this highly entertaining, amusing, thought-provoking, moving, clever collection of original songs brings something different to the musical table. – Major Bruce Tulloch



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Blaze!

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**MP impressed by Lifehouse work**

**Sneinton House**

WHEN Chris Leslie MP visited the Nottingham Lifehouse, he learnt about the Business 4 Life programme that aims to help bring out the entrepreneurial talents of service users, and Learning 4 Life co-ordinator Nigel Roe took him through a multimedia presentation, enthusing about how residents are going on to work for major businesses.

Mr Leslie said: 'If people knew that, should they hit rock bottom, they could knock on this Lifehouse door and know that it will be opened with help, warmth, security and the chance to progress with a range of educational and business skills, then they would be as impressed as I am.'

Centre manager Keith Clarke, who is pictured with Mr Leslie (right), said: 'It was fantastic to see Mr Leslie spend a lot of time chatting to the residents, asking lots of questions and genuinely engaging with them.' – W. C.

**Corps folk enjoy praise and worship**

**Woodhouse**

SHEFFIELD Community Gospel Choir visited the corps for an enjoyable evening of praise and worship. The programme included 'This Little Light Of Mine' and 'My Jesus, My Saviour' and the choir also sang an a cappella setting of 'Glorious'. Rob Godley, whose wife is a member of the choir, gave his testimony for the first time. He came to faith after attending an Alpha course organised by the corps. – T. G.



*Pupils from Leeside Primary School present Captain Sharen Furlong (Heckmondwike) with goods they and their fellow students clubbed together to collect; the items will go towards making up food parcels for people in need*

**Residents find answers**

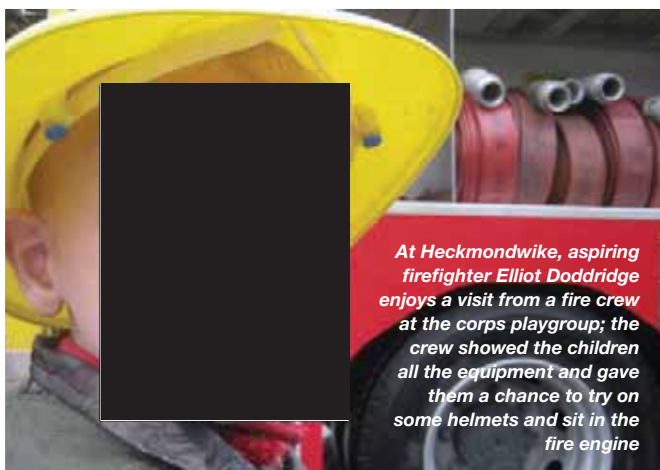
**Bramwell House**

AT the beginning of Campaign Week, staff and residents at the Blackburn Lifehouse met to discover the identity of famous people following the theme Who Do You Think They Are?

After morning prayers on Tuesday, North England Learning and Development Officer Alan Shields spoke about the many names of Jesus and asked: 'Who are you?' Residents decorated masks representing who they were and who they hoped to be.

Divisional Commander Major Melvyn Jones (above, left, looking at the masks) visited on Wednesday morning and took listeners on a journey from the past to present and on to the future. In the evening, project staff arranged karaoke.

On Friday (Armistice Day), staff and residents joined the nation to Remember Who They Were. The week concluded on Sunday evening with a reflection on who Jesus is. – V. Y.



*At Heckmondwike, aspiring firefighter Elliot Doddridge enjoys a visit from a fire crew at the corps playgroup; the crew showed the children all the equipment and gave them a chance to try on some helmets and sit in the fire engine*



*At Chatham, Chloe Sales-Butteriss and Laura Buchan proudly hold the Mike Woodhouse award, which is presented annually for the best attendance at KAOS (Kids Alive On Sunday); Mike was young people's sergeant-major at the corps for several years and the award is given in his memory*

## Over-60s celebrate

### Central South

KING'S Centre, High Wycombe, was packed for the divisional over-60 rally.

Guests Lieut-Colonels Peter and Sylvia Dalziel presented items of Scripture and song. Other participants included Central Southern Area Fellowship Band and Chorus and Greenford Timbrelists (pictured). – G. B.



## Weekend of inspiration

### Gainsborough

ON the Saturday afternoon of Remembrance weekend, the band and songsters met for rehearsals under the inspiring leadership of Dr Ken Downie and Patricia Downie (Winchester). The guest leaders are pictured with Songster Leader Sue Blyth and Bandmaster Andrew Blyth. After tea, Ken led a time of fellowship and devotions.

During the Sunday morning meeting, the sections contributed items rehearsed the day before. Patricia spoke on what must be remembered and Ken spoke on what must be forgotten. – P. H.



## Cobhamites reunite

### Maidstone

SEVENTY excited musicians arrived at the corps for a one-day

reunion. They had all been students of the Army's National School of Music, held at Cobham Hall in Kent, between 1977 and 1990. Bandmaster Howard Evans (Boscombe) led the reunion band and Songster Leader Susan Turner (Stowmarket) took the 'girls' chorus'. After rehearsals, they presented a concert featuring music from Cobham Hall festivals.

Lieut-Colonel Norman Bearcroft, who had flown in from America, compered the programme and conducted two of his own compositions. He is pictured leading the whole school in rehearsal. – K. A.

## Corps supports music programme in Kenya

### Bristol Kingswood

AFTER taking part in a programme with the divisional fellowship band at Bristol Easton, which raised £4,400 for the Kenya Trust, Bandmaster Russell Williams decided he would like to do something more to support the music programme in Kenya.

He arranged for 13 instruments that were no longer being used by the band to be donated to the trust for use by the Kenya East Territory. He also made sure each instrument was in good condition and fit to play.

Bandmaster Williams (right) is pictured with corps officer Captain Michael Eden and Kenya Trust trustee Corps Sergeant-Major Hilton Baker (Bristol Easton). – H. B.



At Leek, corps folk dress up to attend a film preview evening; they also had an opportunity to have their photo taken with a 'celebrity' before watching a film

**Leek:** The band accompanied the hymn singing for the Remembrance Service held at the Nicholson War Memorial. Many hundreds of people attended the event. – B. L.

## ■ Do something different

**I WAS interested in the two articles under the heading Prison Ministries (Salvationist 19 November).**

In the mid-Eighties I was a probation officer seconded for two and a half years to Glen Parva Young Offenders institution in Leicester. At that time the Institution was the largest in Europe with an occupancy of 1,000 young men aged between 15 and 21 years old. My task each morning was to interview the young men who had been remanded from the courts the previous day. I then interviewed those recently sentenced to a period of youth custody and followed this by responding to probation requests made by young men already serving their sentences.

It soon became clear to me that there were similar threads emerging from my interviews with these young men who shared many common life experiences. These included being raised in single-

parent families, witnessing domestic violence and being the victims of sexual, physical or emotional abuse. They frequently came from poverty-stricken families where offending was the norm. School non-attendance was a theme and therefore the majority had literacy and numeracy problems.

Twenty-seven years on, very little has changed and I am strongly of the opinion that The Salvation Army can still be a powerful force in helping to tackle these problems. In their articles, the General and Commissioners John and Betty Matear regularly challenge us to go beyond the walls of our Army halls and into the community to become a force for change. Whether we live in large cities, towns or villages there are people who need to know that we are available to them and that we care.

Let us revisit our existing corps programmes and consider whether or not they need to be changed in order to meet present needs. We must have the courage to do something different.

**Kate Cousins,  
Great Ayton**

**Readers sending letters by email should include their name, full rank if applicable and full postal address**

■ Please remember, letters for publication in *Salvationist* should be carefully thought out, logically presented and charitably expressed

■ Not all letters can be printed

■ The Editor reserves the right to edit letters or print extracts

■ Write to *Salvationist* (Letters), 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN or email [salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk)

## ■ Flag wasn't hidden away

**READING the letter regarding the Chinese flag (Salvationist 12 November) reminded me that it has not been hidden away for 60 years.**

Back in 1977, Major Joy Webb wrote a lovely mini-musical, entitled *Little Teacher*, centred on the life and work of Catherine Hine who was a Salvation Army officer in the early 1900s. Joy wrote it for the West London Music School held at Sunbury Court.

The colourful and moving story tells how Catherine wanted to go to China as a missionary, but wasn't allowed to do so on health grounds; instead she pioneered work among the Chinese seamen in the East End of London.

The story gave the students a wonderful insight into Army history and some beautiful moments as Catherine explained to the Chinese children, through the story of the Good Shepherd, that there is a place for them in the heart of God. The story was mimed as the children sang the song, based on this story, 'Other Sheep'.

But the most moving part, for me, came at the end when Catherine's Chinese flag was brought onto the platform at Regent Hall and gradually raised as the children sang the final song, 'We See People, And They Need You Lord'.

I'm sure there will be some students who remember this moment, as I do, with very great love and appreciation.

Catherine didn't go to China, but the people she loved came to her instead.

**Kathy Kerslake,  
Staines**



## ■ Are you in the picture?

**HERE is a picture of a group of young men who met at Hanover Red Shield in 1954, more than 57 years ago. We were all Salvation Army bandsmen serving as soldiers or airmen in the British military at a time when we were required to do National Service.**

I don't remember everything that went on that weekend, but I do remember

that we made up a band and played to the inmates of Hanover Prison. I also remember being driven around, crammed into a VW van, in total darkness!

The young man crouched third from left is Norman Richards, who, like myself, was a member of 93 Squadron stationed at Jever. I am at the very back, eighth from the left.

It would be nice to know if anyone recognises themselves, or maybe their parent or grandparent. Or maybe I am the sole survivor of this group!

**Tony Bennett,  
Winton**

# A fresh outlook



by Territorial Commander  
Commissioner John Matear

CHRISTMAS in the high street and marketplace is a frenzy of ingenuity and productivity. Redundant shops spring to life for a few brief weeks to display wares that often have been imported in huge container ships from across the globe.

Christmas trading is serious business. It can mean the difference between survival and bankruptcy for traders. The underlying message is that spending money – whether we have it or not – on goods and pleasures is what people do at Christmas. But the pursuit of happiness has a hollow ring to it. Capitalising upon it as a commercial opportunity, retailers, catalogue firms and internet dealers begin to market Christmas long before December. Christmas as a consumer activity is not a by-product but is now the stated goal. Christmas music is played in stores, creating a seasonal mood conducive to big spending. The frenzy can leave us frazzled and indifferent. We can lose sight of the reason for the season. Forced and unrealistic expectations for the so-called ‘perfect Christmas’ can sabotage our chance to experience the real path to Christmas. In preparing for the season

it is possible to miss the gift and the real purpose.

What will it take for us to begin a fresh journey?

We might pray for a fresh outlook and response during this Advent season. In the midst of the secular excesses, Advent provides an opportunity to continually reorientate ourselves to God’s will. It is possible to manage our lives in a less frenetic way. In the rush before Christmas, it is easy to forget that the very preparations

*‘Advent provides an opportunity to continually reorientate ourselves to God’s will’*

themselves – decorations, music, gifts and meals – are wonderful opportunities to realise the Lord’s presence.

Gifts and Christmas go together. The giving and receiving of gifts are expressions of love and can make for strong memories and meaning. Happiness and celebration, though, are not dependent on consumer spending. We can celebrate the Incarnation in meaningful traditions.

Modern economic realities cause us to take a hard look at what we spend and what we value. There are priceless gifts of time and love. Many people have real needs – the poor, hurting, lonely and sick. Doing something for someone else resonates with strong values and the message: need knows no season. We can look for God in the people we encounter. We can pause during Advent to reflect on God’s gift of love, setting our focus on God, accepting the element of mystery as we do so. Author and pastor Handel H. Brown wrote: ‘Christmas has lost its meaning for us because we have lost the spirit of expectancy. We cannot prepare for an observance. We must prepare for an experience.’

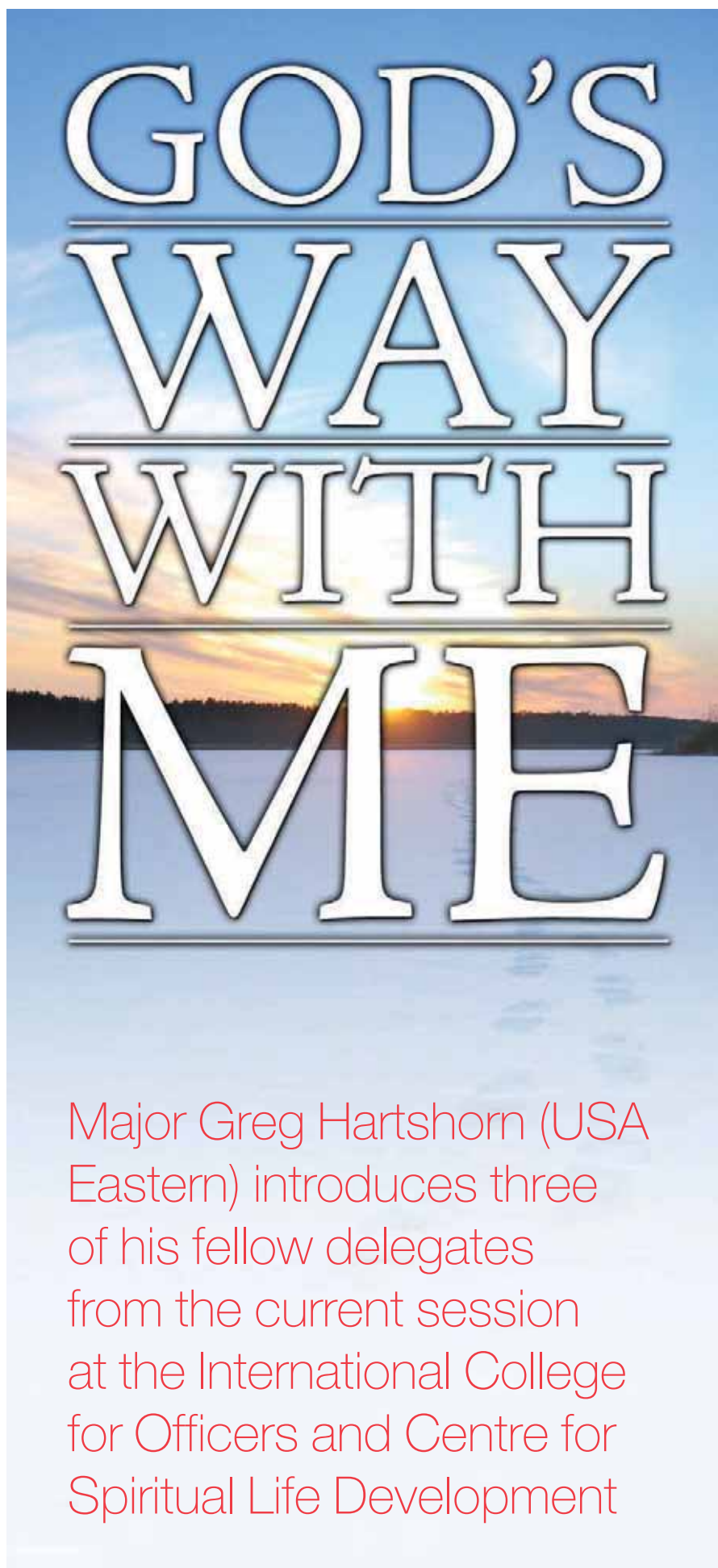
Let us pray to become more aware of God, who is anxious to renew our spirit. The birth of Jesus is more than history – he is a present reality and those who acknowledge their need and are ready to receive him experience this awesome truth.

We have become familiar in recent years with references to ‘incarnational ministry’, which may have many nuances but resonates with John 1:14 as expressed in *The Message*: ‘The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.’ The familiar carol ‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’ includes the messages – ‘pleased as man with man to dwell’ and ‘mild he lays his glory by’. God chose incarnation! God chose to give us his whole self in Christ!

Hope becomes reality. Peace, truth and justice take on flesh and become reality. Jesus, ‘veiled in flesh’, came from splendour and was born in poverty. He brought good news for the poor, freedom for the prisoners and sight for the blind. He had a word for the pious, salvation for sinners and blessings for children. He healed the broken-hearted yet became broken and ‘crushed for our iniquities’ (Isaiah 53:5 *New International Version*).

As we anticipate Christmas let there be celebration. It is good news of great joy and it is for you and for all people. The good news is not confined to December but is for all people and for all time. The news unwrapped is simply that God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him (John 3:16, paraphrased).

God’s love is unconditional, unchanging and always available. It is not restricted to the Jesus of the Bethlehem manger, but points us to the Christ of Calvary and his resurrection power to transform lives. ■



Major Greg Hartshorn (USA Eastern) introduces three of his fellow delegates from the current session at the International College for Officers and Centre for Spiritual Life Development



**CAPTAIN PAMELA JUMBE BANDA, MALAWI**

THE eldest of five children, Pamela was born in Zambia. She received Jesus Christ as her personal saviour when she was 13 years old. Pamela loved the truth that she was God's blessed child and, in return, loved the Lord with all her heart.

Her parents separated shortly afterwards. Pamela and her sister remained with their father and then stepmother. These were difficult days, yet Pamela testifies how faithful God was to her then and how she drew even closer to him – remembering 'how much God loved me'.

She determined to be obedient to God and work hard on her studies at school. Psalm 91 was her prayer, especially verse 11: 'For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways' (all quotations from *New International Version*).

After completing her education Pamela worked for the Ministry of Lands. She felt God's clear calling to ministry in The Salvation Army, but there were obstacles; one being that Pamela did not want to become an officer without a husband, because she feared she might very well never get one!

The news of her calling was difficult for her parents, because they felt it was better she keep her job than become a Salvation Army officer. She assured them of this word from God: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11).

Pamela met her husband, Alfred, as a cadet. They married after her commissioning in December 1999 and she joined him at their first corps in Malawi.

They served together in two corps appointments, one of which proved very

challenging. There was no school for the children, the house was very small, and their only transportation came from jumping on top of piles of maize on the back of trucks on their way into town.

'It was in this appointment that I saw how God works, and that he was present with us,' she says. 'The people loved us, and we loved them!'

Following appointments to the training college and extension training centre, the captain is now director of women's ministries in Malawi Central Division. Her parents are very proud of her.

She and her husband have three wonderful boys, Emmanuel, Samuel and Alfred. Through it all, God has provided faithfully. As Psalm 23:1 says: 'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.'



**MAJOR MAN-HEE CHANG,  
USA WESTERN**

THE major was born to Salvationist parents in Seoul, South Korea, and raised under their godly influence in a good Christian family.

In his high school years, Man-Hee felt God calling him to full-time ministry in The Salvation Army.

His family emigrated to the United States when he was 19, and settled in New York City. This move stalled Man-Hee's call, as he began to chase 'the American dream'. One of his goals was to earn one hundred thousand dollars before the age of thirty.

Starting his own business in European speciality foods, Man-Hee bought a house, worked hard and attained his goal. That was not enough; he was haunted with the soul-searching question: 'Is that all there is?'

One day, a teenager – a known drug dealer – came into his shop. Man-Hee asked him: 'Why are you doing this? You quit high school. Do you think you have a future in this lifestyle?'

The young man replied: 'Look at my car outside, my shoes, my clothes!' Man-Hee was prompted to tell him: 'You are not somebody because of your money. You are somebody because you are God's child.'

Suddenly, Man-Hee was looking at himself in a mirror. 'Man-Hee, you are somebody because you are God's child.'

Man-Hee knew he had to respond. He separated himself from all that defined him; he sold his business and moved to California. Acting on God's call, in three months he found himself in the Army's School for Officer Training in Rancho Palo Verdes, California. In 1993 he and his wife Stephanie were commissioned as lieutenants. They have three children, Jennifer, Eunice and Jason.

The couple served in two corps appointments before a door opened for them to work in the Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centre's Command – something Man-Hee's heart warmed to during training.

During their five ARC appointments, he found working with the men very rewarding. 'We were always living in the presence of the Holy Spirit, seeing him touch the men's hearts, their response in faith and changed lives.'

The major is now the Territorial Adult Rehabilitation Centres Commander. He says: 'I have only one goal: to be faithful to him who has called me!'

This is a guiding Scripture verse for him: 'Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire' (Matthew 3:10).



**MAJOR VETHAMONY  
MANOHARAN,  
INDIA SOUTH EASTERN**

VETHAMONY has had a keen interest in God's work since she was a young girl. Born to Salvationist parents, she recalls attending a salvation meeting as a

*'We were always  
living in the  
presence of the  
Holy Spirit'*

teenager when the guest officer made an invitation to come to the mercy seat for prayer. As Vethamony knelt at the altar, she felt the Holy Spirit come upon her and she said to the Lord: 'Yes, I will go.'

Vethamony completed two years of secondary school, studying finance. She met her future husband and they both entered the School for Officer Training in 1985. This was not an easy step, because her father expressed real concerns for her pursuing this 'very difficult life'.

In 1987 Vethamony was commissioned and married. She and her husband spent ten years as corps officers. During this time she developed a great interest and enjoyment in preaching.

She describes her spiritual journey: 'Day by day, I want to grow with God.' With Bible and songbook in hand, she retreats to the prayer room in her home and sits on the floor. Although the door is closed, she exclaims: 'This is not a quiet time with my saviour!'

The major served as assistant finance officer for seven years in two territories, where she found her opportunities to preach diminished. She then became divisional director of women's ministries, which was a very privileged time.

Most recently, she was the child sponsorship director in Tanzania; her husband worked in finance.

There was much suffering during these days. 'I was away from my girls – Jeba Emimah, Jeba Ashmy and Jeba Nelcy – back home in India.'

Meanwhile, God was faithful. He helped the major learn the language in a short time and even provided Skype so she could talk to and see her daughters via the internet. She also found her rest every Friday when she sat on the floor in the chapel, with Bible and songbook in hand, praying to and praising the Lord.

She and her husband have recently returned to India and their family and are awaiting assignment.

God has given her this verse for difficult times: 'I cry to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me' (Psalm 57:2). ■

# GROWING S·A·I·N·T·S

In the fourth of a series of short interviews, Claire Anderson asks divisional youth officers about ministry in their divisions

**DYO:** Ryan Wileman

**Division:** Yorkshire

**Divisional demographic:** Some areas of the division have various expressions of community and cultures, such as middle-class areas with a completely deprived community within. Sometimes by turning the corner the 'landscape' really changes.

**Highlights:** Loads! South Leeds 614UK employs youth workers who run the Space project. There is an hour-long club for each school year with activities and great discussion times. Youth workers hold cell groups and Bible-based activities in their homes. Romance Academy also ran a course. There's a good pool of volunteers and they are mentoring and training young people to lead others.

Woodhouse is in partnership with the city council, police and community groups to run activities, with other discussions under way.

**DYO:** Chris Blair

**Division:** Anglia

**Divisional demographic:** Pockets of youth around the division – a number under 18, which thins out in the 18-plus group. I'd describe the division as rural, with some major towns and cities, not encountering gang culture, except, perhaps, on a minute scale.

**Challenges:** The breakdown of mutually beneficial relationships. For example, at a youth club, young people Facebooking

The division piloted ALOVE Change projects – an alternative education programme in partnership with Young Enterprise. A pilot group in Doncaster made mugs and sold them to the Cameo group – kids who had never been to worship attended on the Sunday and also went to youth councils!

Wetherby has been an Essential placement for five years. Of the 12 Essentials, around three quarters have gone on to full-time youth work, children's work, officership or Army employment.

We run the Transformers young leaders' course with Central North and North-Western Divisions. There has been real spiritual growth among the young people involved and an increased aspiration of self and what they can achieve. We also started the Growing Young Leaders course for 18 to 25-year-olds.

**Challenges:** Although many corps have a real passion and desire to further

those next to them or parents/leaders suggesting relationships are present among young people on Sundays, but not outside this context. Isolation: particularly in areas with very little public transport (but, where people are struggling, we consider how to support them).

**Highlights:** Bourne employed a part-time youth worker to run its programme and put up a temporary building dedicated to youth; there's also a street dance group and monthly youth worship services. The corps is encouraging, accommodating

their youth work, they don't have the human resources to do so. It is a challenge a lot of corps face.

**Future hopes:**

To keep moving and working in areas of deprivation and other new places, too, engaging with people who need the Army the most. Also, to see young people encouraged and empowered to take on leadership responsibilities.

**Inspiration:** The Army has a healthy future. We have some really passionate young people – passionate about their faith, relationship with Jesus and making a difference in their community and the wider world. They have a deep spirituality that continues to amaze me; I wish I'd had at their age what they've got now! They've been really well disciplined at corps and they're doing a great job. ■



Ryan



Chris

Great Yarmouth is investing in young people – they started a youth club, attracting around thirty people, and have a suite of rooms dedicated to YP work.

**Vision:** I'm not worried about keeping young people, but about who they are as people, not as numbers. I want to entertain conversations on how we

**DYO:** Laurence Bennett

**Division:** Southern

**Divisional demographic:** Covering from Weymouth to Bognor to Guildford, including the Channel Islands and Isle of Wight – to meet up, the young people have large distances to travel. Our work mainly engages Salvationist young people but there are projects engaging unchurched young people.

**Highlights:** A heavy discipleship and mentoring emphasis, exploring the young people's questions with them through mentoring rather than pushing them into programme. They're demonstrating a real receptiveness and openness, so we need to tap into that and use it for God's glory.

Summer school has become increasingly discipleship and faith-development focused and, over two years, we have been developing young leaders through a Transformers-style

**DYO:** Captain David Williamson

**Division:** South and Mid Wales

**Divisional demographic:** Out from the cities of Swansea and Cardiff it quickly becomes rural – going up the Welsh valleys or into rural west Wales; very few large corps, but a number of corps that are relevant to their context and community with exciting developments.

**Highlights:** Since November 2010 Pentre Music Rocks inclusion project worked with young people not in education, employment or training. Some 105 have been tutored, learnt about being part of a band and were mentored, one to one, addressing life skills they require and issues they are facing; 95 received an OCN qualification – particularly useful as some leave school without qualifications.

Senghenydd's new Friday youth café

serve and love them. The only thing found to bring young people into faith is relationships. In one of my previous corps, we dropped events, programme and a mentality of convincing young people of Christ and to stay in the Church for a relationship with them instead – they saw Christ in us and came to faith and lasting discipleship.

programme, running a youthworker and children's worker event every year with the divisional children's officer. It's exciting to see them enthused and wanting to be equipped and more effective.

I'm amazed at our youth chorus members' presentation and attitude. Last year they approached making a recording as a worship project and 'specialling' is seen as 'leading worship together'. The youth band continues to build on the success of its California, US, tour and represents the division well.

There's a great depth to our young people and they genuinely care for each other.

**Innovations:** Aim Community project – an ALOVE social engagement project – weekly engages disaffected, hurting young people through creative arts, enabling them to access their potential and develop to be all God intends them to be; that's exciting! We have a brilliant bunch of hardworking youth workers.

provides for the village's young people and those too old for the children's programme. The corps plans to extend its provision to Saturday nights and develop village youth work.

Abergavenny has Essential1 programme trainees who are involved ecumenically in the town; it is involved in a youth drop-in project and schools work.

For 28 years Swansea has run a children's and youth residential weekend, which is key in building relationships. The corps holds its young people and caters well for students.

The division is part of the ecumenical Spree Wales event – this year with responsibility for the children's teaching and café tents. Twenty-five youngsters linked to the Army made a first-time commitment to Christ.

Twice a year we run D [discipleship] Day – Christian teaching for the 16-pluses.

**Future hopes:** That our young people reach a place where honesty about who they are and who Jesus is to them is their primary goal, and to cultivate in our programmes places of safety where there's time for them to ask questions. I believe this will lead to a strong, passionate army of young people. ■

**Challenges:** Lots!

A bit disheartening is that youthwork happens in a minority of corps. Perhaps older or smaller corps feel unable to engage, so imagine youth work is irrelevant for them. But there's a great opportunity for the older generation to speak into, lead and develop younger generations. Other challenges are eclipsed by the exciting stuff happening!



Laurence

**Future hopes:** To see lots more young people in Church and leading the Church; having a vast influence on what the Church looks like; being mobilised and engaged in mission and evangelism, knowing what it means to share the gospel; being able to engage with God naturally. We can do a whole lot of youth work but it's really all about growing the Kingdom! ■

**Challenges:** Young people who go away to university rarely return; to find the correct format for our residential youth event or a suitable alternative.



David

**Observation:** Investing in young people and youth work is essential to ensure the Church is relevant today and has a future tomorrow. It is vital we do not leave youth-worker positions vacant, as it will be to the detriment of the Army and young people's spiritual development.

**Conclusion:** Our young people have a clear spirituality, a great understanding of whole-life discipleship and are clearly responsive to the moving of God's Spirit. Working with them is exciting, dynamic, challenging and completely rewarding! ■

# Advent of light

Major Rosemary Cowdery writes the first in an Advent series of Bible studies by UK officers serving overseas

THE Advent season reminds us to turn again to the Gospel of John and to read how 'the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world' (1:9 *New International Version*).

I am writing this study from the training college in Pakistan, situated close to a large canal flowing through the city of Lahore and on towards the Indian border.

When we have occasion to travel along the canal at night, the marriage halls, bazaars and food outlets are brightly lit with coloured lights. At festival times, the banks of the canal are also illuminated. The sight is very beautiful and it is easy to see evidence of the great creativity and artistic skill of many Pakistanis.

However, a similar drive along the canal in the morning light reveals a very different picture. The water, which looked so attractive with the reflections of the lights, now appears to be a sluggish brown. The cables for the lights hang in huge unkempt bundles and there are plastic bags and rubbish everywhere.

In the man-made light, all appeared to be beautiful. But when God's light came

in the morning, it showed more clearly the reality of daily life.

Some of the traders sleep through the heat of the day and wake to ply their business only in the cool of the evening and in the dark. Perhaps they also prefer that view!

It is possible during this Advent season to have a very romanticised view of Christmas – especially when we see cards

*'Did they see the possibilities and the promise of a saviour come to bring a different kind of light to their lives?'*

decorated with pictures of snow, cute robins, maybe a beautiful baby with blond curls and an immaculate Mary.

In reality, I am certain there was no snow in Bethlehem. There may have been a common or garden sparrow or two around, but it is much more likely that larger animals were keeping company with the family from Nazareth. They may even have kept the air warm, but it probably wasn't very fragrant!

I often wonder whether the shepherds

arrived to worship the baby Jesus during the night or in the daylight.

Did the night hide the poverty of the situation? Or, in the daylight and among the common fixtures of an animal's shelter, did they see the possibilities and the promise of a saviour come to bring a different kind of light to their lives?

The shepherds had been waiting – along with their fellow Jews – for the Messiah to come. They were praying that he would come to lighten their darkness. However, I wonder if sometimes – like the Pakistani traders – we prefer not to face all that the light reveals.

In the cold reality of the morning, when our personal world can seem sluggish, unkempt and full of rubbish, we can rejoice in the promise that the Light of the World – the Son of God, our saviour Jesus – comes in order to transform, renew and refresh.

Yes, his light will reveal much that needs to be cleared away. But his light also brings fresh creativity, artistry and promise, so that our world can be recreated and renewed. He came to bear the burden of sin that would darken and mar the world, but every day his light shines into our darkness – bringing fresh hope and new possibilities.

At Advent, we are reminded that this is a time of waiting and hoping.

There is the distinct possibility that here at the training college we may get so caught up in the business of lectures, study and learning new skills that we forget to wait on God as his light comes to penetrate our living.

Life in Pakistan teaches us to value the light. We often suffer power shortages that plunge us into darkness for hours at a time. The traders like this, I think, because, as we shop of necessity in the cool of the evening, it is difficult to see the vegetables we are buying and whether they are good or not!

Oh how we long for the light to come and lighten our darkness! ■

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel.*

(SASB 86)

■ Major Cowdery is Mission Training and Education Co-ordinator, Pakistan

**Valerie Martin**  
Adherent member

## SOHAM

WHEN Valerie was bereaved of her husband, she was invited to the corps lunch club by a friend. She attended home league and Sunday meetings, where she found warmth and friendship. She also brought the friend who first invited her to the Army. Corps officer Captain Emma Knights welcomed Valerie as an adherent member. – E. K.

**Geoff Blount**  
**Jenny Ragsdell**  
Adherent members

## DONCASTER

GEOFF and his family, who previously attended church, have been attending the corps for some time. As a pianist, he assists the corps singers; he also volunteers at the corps charity shops and is involved in children's ministry.

Jenny has attended for many years. She helped to establish two parent-and-toddler groups and uses her artistic skills in the corps.

Corps officer Captain Anne Crane welcomed Geoff and Jenny as adherent members. – C. W.

**David Clark**  
**Pauline Clark**  
Adherent members

**Ben Gifford**  
Junior soldier

## STOTFOLD

PAULINE attended the ladies fellowship, an Alpha course and, more recently, Sunday meetings. David plays guitar with the senior worship group. Corps officer Major Chris Davidson welcomed David and Pauline as adherent members.

Ben read the junior soldier's promise with clarity and conviction. He was enrolled by his grandfather Commissioner Robert Street (IHQ) during young people's anniversary celebrations. – H. T.

**Gary Little**  
Adherent member

## CHELMSFORD

GARY testified to the warm welcome he received making him feel an important part of the corps family. Corps officer Major Susan Jones welcomed him as an adherent member. – S. J.

PLEASE note when submitting pictures: they can be posted to the *Salvationist* office as photographs to be scanned or emailed to [salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk) as digital images.

**Hannah Jenkins**  
Soldier

**Laura Griffiths**  
Adherent member

## CARDIFF CANTON

HANNAH thanked God for people who had influenced her life and for the welcome she received when she first went to the corps. Laura shared with her family and friends that she was on a journey with God and saw her commitment as a step along the way.

Corps officer Major Graham Willetts enrolled Hannah as a soldier and welcomed Laura as an adherent member. – G. W.

**Margaret Ohameje**  
**Daphne Holmes**  
**Ray Steer**  
Adherent members

## BOSCOMBE

MARGARET was a member of a group of mainly Zimbabwean Christians who used the hall for their afternoon service. When that arrangement ended, she stopped attending church. Recently she returned and expressed a desire to make a commitment.

In her early years Daphne attended the Methodist Church. After moving to the area she went to church with her husband. After his death, she was invited to the corps by her neighbours and immediately felt that she had found a new spiritual home.

Ray (not pictured) was first interested in the Army when he was young and in recent years has attended regularly.

Corps officer Major Peter Mylechreest welcomed Margaret, Daphne and Ray as adherent members. – R. C.

**Christopher Clews**  
Adherent member

## WILLINGHAM

CHRISTOPHER moved to the area from Spain to be nearer his family. He accepted an invitation to the corps and spoke of his thanks for the love and care shown to him. Corps officer Captain Emma Knights welcomed Christopher as an adherent member. – E. K.

**Caitlin Pearson**  
Junior soldier

## BRADFORD CITADEL

CAITLIN and her mum attend Sunday morning worship. Their first connection with the corps was the parent-and-toddler group and, more recently, the Jam club.

Corps officer Major Michelle Wheeler enrolled Caitlin as a junior soldier. – M. W.

**Terry Scott**  
Adherent member  
**MILTON KEYNES**

TERRY has attended the corps for a number of months. He felt at home in the fellowship and declared his faith in Jesus.

Corps officer Captain Michael Allen welcomed Terry as an adherent member. – M. A.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ARMY PEOPLE

### LOCAL OFFICER APPOINTED

**SL Martyn Beecham**, Castleford.

### MARRIAGES

**Leslie Haywood** to **Sally Robinson-Lundy** at Sherburn Hill by Captain Russell Tucker;  
**Thomas Crosby** to **Carol McMaster McDonald**  
**Kerr Mahon** at Livingston by Lieutenants Karl and Rachel Carpenter.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

*Diamond:* **Tom and Mrs Nancy Moffatt**, Chester-le-Street (8 December).

### DEDICATED TO GOD

**Ryan Mangala Jose**, son of R. Jose da Costa Luemba and Carine Imani Kieya, at Edmonton by Major Stuart Downham; **Jessica Ruth**, daughter of Mark and Rebecca Hambleton, at Basildon by Territorial Envoy Phil Goldsmith.

### BEREAVED

**Major Rudi Bruinewoud**, Leicester Central, of his brother Gerrit; **Quita Peel**, Margate, of her brother Bramwell Cook; **Louie McAllister**, Edinburgh Gorgie, of her son John.

### RETIRED OFFICERS

*Birthday congratulations:* **Mrs Commissioner Barbara Chiangnuna**, [redacted], [redacted], London N16 [redacted] (85 on 7 December); **Major Philip Parkes**, [redacted], London SE6 [redacted] (85 on 10 December).  
*Retirement addresses:* **Major Margaret Wicker**, [redacted], Stepps, Glasgow [redacted]; **Major Gillian Johnson**, [redacted], [redacted], Beckenham [redacted]; **Majors June and Mervyn Marshall**, [redacted], South Shields [redacted].

### PROMOTED TO GLORY

**Rene Jones**, Rock Ferry; **Vera Taylor**, Plymouth Exeter Hall Whiteleigh.

**Mrs Brigadier Charlotte Daniel from Harrow on 21 November.**

A daughter, Mrs Dorothy Davies, lives at [redacted], Harrow [redacted].

**Brigadier John Thompson from Wellingborough on 24 November.**

A daughter, Mrs Patricia Lee, lives at [redacted], Uxbridge [redacted].

## TRIBUTES



### COLONEL RAYMOND YARDE

BORN in Bristol in 1921, Raymond Yarde entered the training college before his 18th birthday and was commissioned in 1940. He was initially appointed to Wincobank, followed by transfer to the Red Shield Services in 1941. In 1942 he travelled with the British Forces to North Africa and then to Italy, where he met his future wife, Febe del Rosso. During the Italian Campaign Raymond was mentioned in dispatches for bravery.

On his return to England he was posted to the Durham Division. He married Cadet del Rosso in 1948 and they were transferred to Italy, serving first in Milan and then Turin. He was appointed finance secretary in 1953, and took part in several relief operations – the result of earthquakes and floods that struck the country.

In 1968 he returned to London as an international auditor. He enjoyed becoming a member of the International Staff Band and worshipping at Wood Green during this period.

In 1975 he was back in Italy as General Secretary – a job that brought him into contact with many important people. However, his great enjoyment was working with the young – with whom he shared his love for music – and the needy, for whom he had

great compassion. Family and youth camps and missions were significant parts of the yearly calendar.

He later became leader of The Salvation Army in Belgium and France. In Paris he initiated several new ventures, but was mostly appreciated for his ability to see the potential in other people and make them feel valued.

The Yardes retired in France, where the colonel continued to be active in his local corps while also preaching and leading meetings and camps in France and Italy with his wife.

A man of few words, he knew how to intervene at the right moment. He was a peacemaker, adaptable and sensitive. He was also a devoted husband and a loving father to his daughters, Patricia and Simonetta.

He died surrounded by his family while a Salvation Army record was being played. – P. M.



### ANGELA GUARD, SWANSEA

ANGELA was taken to the Army by her parents to be dedicated to God, the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the corps – as a junior soldier, singing company member and senior soldier.

She was involved in the luncheon club, the Friendly Circle and the home league, where she received an award for introducing the most new members.

Angela loved people and frequently used the mercy seat to pray for others. Her friendly, outgoing personality endeared her to many in the wider community of Swansea, as was evidenced in the large congregation at her thanksgiving service.

Suddenly promoted to Glory at the age of 49, Angela leaves a legacy of simple faith, love and friendship. – W. P.



### RETIRED BANDMASTER CLIFFORD MCTIGHE, HUCKNALL

CONVERTED on a YP Decision Sunday in 1940, Clifford became a YP band member at Hucknall. He was later deputy bandmaster and songster leader. During service in the Royal Navy, Clifford linked up with the nearest corps wherever stationed – including Hong Kong, where he was asked to establish the first YP band.

Following transfer to Nottingham Bulwell he became bandmaster, a position he held until the corps closed. Returning to Hucknall, he remained an active bandsman and regularly played in the high street. When there were insufficient numbers of musicians, he played his concertina.

A cheerful and optimistic man, Clifford always aimed for the highest standards in his commitments and in his Christian living. – M. B.

## ENGAGEMENTS

### GENERAL LINDA BOND:

Sweden and Latvia, Sat Sun 4 Dec

### THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF

**(COMMISSIONER BARRY SWANSON)  
AND COMMISSIONER SUE SWANSON:**

New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga, Fri 2 Dec - Sun 11

**THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER  
(COMMISSIONER JOHN MATEAR)**

**AND COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH MATEAR:**

Palace of Westminster (Parliamentary carol service), Tu 6 Dec; London Central, Wed 21

### THE CHIEF SECRETARY

**(COLONEL DAVID HINTON)**

**AND COLONEL SYLVIA HINTON:**

Palace of Westminster (Parliamentary carol service), Tu 6 Dec

**Commissioners Alistair and Astrid Herring:**

Indonesia, Fri 2 Dec - Fri 9

**Commissioner Kenneth Hodder:** India South

Western, Wed 7 Dec - Sat 10

**Commissioners Robert and Janet Street:**

Sweden and Latvia, Sat Sun 4 Dec (with the General); UK, West Midlands (retired officers fellowship), Th 8; UK, Soham, Mon 19

## ON THE AIR

**Premier Radio (1305, 1332, 1413 MW in the Greater London area, nationwide on DAB radio or online at premier.org.uk):** The carol service at Exeter will be broadcast at 9 pm on Christmas Eve.

## Chief of the Staff and WPWM embrace spirit of remembrance and thanksgiving

### Kettering

REMEMBRANCE and thanksgiving were threads woven seamlessly into the fabric of 127th corps anniversary celebrations. The occasion, coinciding with Remembrance Sunday, was richly enhanced by the spiritual and visionary ministry of Chief of the Staff Commissioner Barry Swanson and World President of Women's Ministries Commissioner Sue Swanson.

Their clear, concise Bible messages were received readily and responded to positively – and not just by those who, by the close of the weekend, had knelt at the mercy seat or stood in public recognition of Christ's love and supreme sacrifice for them.

Their busy schedule began with a reception at the mayor's parlour, where – with divisional leaders Lieut-Colonels Mike and

Wendy Caffull, corps officers Majors Lorna and Paul Doust and corps representatives – they were welcomed by the Mayor of Kettering (Councillor Margaret Talbot). Also present was the mayor's chaplain, Major Richard Cook (Rothwell).

Hospitality was to be reciprocated when the mayor and her consort were welcomed to the Army during the Saturday evening celebration festival and the Sunday morning meeting.

The festival featured quality contributions from corps music sections, including the home league singers – whose item was of particular pleasure to Commissioner Sue Swanson. She said God had often used music to grab her attention. Recounting an amusing incident from a music camp in America, where she played cymbals, she taught the spiritual lesson of keeping an eye on the conductor and following his lead.

After the band played 'Shine As The Light', the Chief expounded on verses from John's Gospel and urged: 'We must bring God's presence into dark and dead environments.'

Having returned recently from Bolivia, the Chief told the congregation of a new project started by Salvationists in Yauri Chambi, La Paz, to provide a clean drinking water system for their isolated community. A thanksgiving offering midway through the festival raised nearly £300 towards the project.

Sunday morning's opening song, which included the sentiment, 'Thank you, Lord, for all your goodness through the years of yesterday', led into prayers for God's help as the corps sought to continue 'building on what has gone before and moving forward in ways that are relevant'. The inclusion of 'One Life To Live' by the singing company enhanced the prayer period.

In his Bible message the Chief called on individuals and nations: 'Let go of selfish,

earthly things and turn to spiritual, everlasting blessings.' Then, as 11 o'clock approached, the band played 'Nimrod' as a prelude to the congregation observing two minutes' silence. Retired Bandmaster Michael Barratt sounded Last Post and Reveille.

He repeated that role during the afternoon Remembrance service at the town's war memorial where the Chief laid the corps poppy wreath (pictured). The commissioners then joined the corps officers and band to head a march of councillors, clergy, community groups and services representatives around the town.

The playing of 'Montreal Citadel' by the band – with Commissioner Sue Swanson starring on cymbals! – gave a sparkling start to the evening meeting, in which testimony brought challenge and blessing.

Having known the pain and heartache of a broken home while in her teens, Sheila Barratt spoke of the wonderful day she met Jesus and the healing, comfort and closeness of the Lord. Geoff Lewis, a car mechanic, told of challenging times in his daily witness and shared some spiritual insights that came through his job.

Earlier, in an account of the Army's worldwide witness, the Chief told how inspired he has been to see the dedication, passion and faithfulness of Salvationists in such places as Africa, Korea, Germany and Japan.

The commissioners also sang their testimony as they introduced the chorus 'When I Remember That He Died For Me'. It was appropriate to Commissioner Sue Swanson's ensuing Bible message in which she emphasised God's covenant to all generations.

The spirited singing of 'I'll Go In The Strength Of The Lord' as a concluding anniversary anthem was a fitting act of corporate witness to faith and commitment. – T. H.



## CAPTION COMPETITION RESULTS



On 12 November *Salvationist* asked readers for captions for this picture of corps officer Major Carol Lockhart inviting a visiting circus troop along to the Newquay Corps Cornish Cream Tea. Here is a selection of the best captions:

■ *The band will 'ave 'im if he can drum on his chest!* – Clyde Pollard, Halifax

■ *'And if you can do some carolling for us, I'll give you a Green Triangle!'* – Jack Tracey, Stoke Canon

■ *'Who's specialling? Is it the Clowne officers?'* – Patricia Smart, Portsmouth

■ *And lo it came to pass that there was a gorilla in the midst!* – Norman O'Connor, Merton

■ *'Used to the circus? You'd be very welcome at our corps!'* – Des Wisdom, Morecambe

■ *In the annual South-Western Division fancy-dress competition, Major Carol Lockhart had to settle for fourth place!* – Major Nigel Bovey, Shirley



# A CLARION SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

Bandmaster Andrew Mackereth, Nuneaton, reviews *Brass Spectacular* – a live recording of the ISB120 evening festival at the Royal Albert Hall

IF you buy only one CD this Christmas, make it this one. When the souvenir T-shirts have lost their lustre and the pin badges are languishing on page 4 of well-known internet auction sites, this CD will still be a must-have, must-play item. Like so many earlier releases that have marked an epoch in our Movement's history, this recording is a collector's item. All eight staff bands are featured en masse with two solo spots for the International Staff Band and one for the International Staff Songsters.

The programme begins with 'Praise Him' by Stephen Bulla. This show-opener – originally written for the 1992 Congress of the same name, but on this occasion used to usher in the 244 players of the massed bands – sets the tone for what is to follow.

'Fanfare, Prelude And Fugue On Sine Nomine' is the first massed band piece and is based on the familiar school hymn 'For All The Saints' by Vaughan-Williams. The music of Vaughan-Williams is heard fairly regularly at the Albert Hall but this arrangement by Dr Peter Graham makes full use of the excellent setting and acoustics by passing the musical ideas backwards and forwards across the band to great effect.

'King Of Heaven' was the ISB's centrepiece on the night. Kenneth Downie, already so much a central musical figure in the event, unleashed his limitless creativity on this set of variations on 'Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven'. The piece makes great demands on all sections of the band and is akin in many ways to a concerto for band.

In the composition 'Pardon, Power And Praise' Ken is again the provider of a wonderful new setting for the ISS of his own much-earlier arrangement of 'Have You Been To Jesus For The Cleansing Power?' and 'Nothing But Thy Blood Can Save Me'.

The work of Stephen Bulla is again featured in the tour de force for euphonium and band, 'Scottish Folk Variants'. Derick Kane is superb in his familiar role as soloist, navigating through the many twists, turns and musical jokes – so much a part of Bulla's writing style.

No disc would be complete without some fine, atmospheric congregational singing and 'Stand Up And Bless The Lord', under

the direction of Bandmaster Heinrich Schmidt, is a choice inclusion. I should add that each of the staff bandmasters conducted items on the night although only four have been included on this recording.

The longest and certainly the most taxing piece for the assembled musicians is 'Pursuing Horizons' by Dudley Bright, using ideas from Philippians 3. This piece is as satisfying in the recording as it was in the live performance. Making full use of the antiphonal possibilities of the venue, this is a major work for brass band and offstage solo trumpets.

Two pieces in reflective mood follow: the vocal setting of 'My Simple Prayer' and 'In Quiet Pastures'.

To finish are the iconic 'The Call Of The Righteous' by Leslie Condon and a new setting of 'St Clements' by Assistant Territorial Music Director Andrew Blyth, marking a link to the past and bright hopes for the future.

In summary, there is everything you would want from a massed-band event: pedals from the basses, 'stacked' soprano cornets on the last note of a piece, technical brilliance, great emotion and wonderful drama – crucially, all suffused here with a clarion spiritual message. ■

■ *Brass Spectacular* is available from SP&S priced £9.99 (plus £2.95 postage and packing), or download from [spstunes.com](http://spstunes.com) for £9.99

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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Loch Venacher, Scotland. Picture: DEE WILLIAMSON