

May June 2024

Tidings



Woking

MAY/JUNE

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FROM THE C.O.'S DESK

Greetings in Jesus' name, friends!

We have now enjoyed three of our FutureShape sessions, and the conversations have been deep, wide-reaching and motivated by a profound love for God and for our neighbours. It continues to be a privilege to share in this journey together as a corps, and we trust God's continued closeness to us as we seek his plan for our future.

Following the FutureShape meeting on Wednesday 1st May, there will be a period of consultation and listening amongst the different small groups that make up the corps. Look out for those conversations in section rehearsals, coffee mornings, bible studies, etc!

FutureShape processes notwithstanding, the mission of Woking Salvation Army continues to advance by God's grace! We will take delivery of an Emergency Services Vehicle early in May, and from 1 June we will be up and running serving meals and drinks to fire fighters at major incidents, and of course that famous Salvation Army listening ear! Training will be on 23rd May at 3pm – we need volunteers of all types so please speak with Captains Xander or Vanessa, or Major Ted, to learn more.

We are also in the process of considering how we might better support young people, and those affected by addiction in our community, reaching them with the message of freedom in Jesus. A small working group is pulling this together, and we'd love your prayer. In the meantime, we hope to be able to make an announcement about this before the next edition of



Tidings, so watch this space.

God is at work amongst us, and we're excited to be part of his mission here in Woking!

Finally, let me leave you with an exhortation from the book of Hebrews in the New Testament:

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encour-

aging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:23-24)

Xander Coleman (Captain)

To remember:

Keep praying and getting involved in FutureShape

Volunteer for the Emergency Services Team – training 3pm on 23 May

Please pray for the emerging opportunities to serve young people and those in addiction

Self Denial Altar Service 2024

Jenny Whitten

This morning's service was led by Captain Xander. He opened the service with observance to the beauty of spring, with reference to the flowers bursting forth in the garden at the quarters. We were introduced to the Lenten Cross with six candles and unlike the advent candles that are lit each week, these ones are extinguished one by one throughout the period of Lent. The opening reading came from Psalm 119: 65-78 which was a call to prayer. A lively rendition of " Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising" prepared the mood of the morning. We watched the final video from the self denial programme

and were reminded of the areas that were being sponsored this year to help them with their programmes of care within the community. It was interesting that in Nuuk, Greenland, there is only one serving officer and additional help is offered by volunteers. The programme here caters for the homeless, making sure they have at least one meal a day. Counselling for those with addiction and rehabilitation. Just the tip of the iceberg as the team work tirelessly to provide comfort and hope for the needs of their community. There were similar needs to be found in Mizoram, India and Salto, Uruguay . The monetary

gifts raised from Self Denial will enable the Salvation Army around the world to boost the work done in challenging places to provide nutrition and healing, Bible classes and help with overcoming adverse conditions such as flooding. Although these three countries are many miles from the UK, we are all united in the name of Jesus. Peter Glover concluded this section with a very heartfelt prayer. Our morning continued with a story from inside the box with Captain Vanessa. This week, the parable was about " Love God, Love thy neighbour ". Jesus spoke to the people in parables as most were unable to read or write, this way, using everyday scenarios, the people had a better understanding of the meaning of the story. There was a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when two men robbed him and left him for dead at the side of the road. Three people then passed him on their journey. A priest who crossed to the other side so as not to look. A Levite who did much the same and a man from Samaria, "The Good Samaritan". He tended to the man's wounds, placed him on his donkey and took him to the nearest inn where he paid for the man to stay. He said he would return after his journey to pay any excess if required. The Samaritans did not care for those outside of their own community, especially the Jews. We continued with the song, "There are people hurting in the world

out there. They need you, they need me, they need Christ ". The words reflect that in the world today, we all need each other in so many situations like those depicted through our self denial videos. The reading this morning was taken from Luke 10:25-37 and was read by Bill. The verses contained a question, " what must I do to inherit eternal life?" and also the story of the Good Samaritan. Our mission in life is to Love God but also our neighbours as ourselves. In the story, the Priest could not stop to help as, if the man were dead, he would be in ceremonial uncleanness for the rest of the day. The Levite was a Temple worker, a practical job, but he too passed by. The Samaritans viewed the Jews as being dirty, cursed ones intermarried with the Canaanites. Their blood was not pure. And yet, it was the Samaritan that put aside his views and plans to help the man showing an outpouring of love and generosity. He paid 2 denarii, two days wages for the man to be safe and comfortable. Who showed great love for his neighbour here despite all the reasons why he could have walked by? None of us are enough by ourselves, we need each other. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7 "I have not much to give thee, but what I have I give to thee, but all I have is thine.

Do you love your neighbour?

Easter 2024 – Eggsperience Easter!

Christmas 23 was an Advent to remember with so many different events and our Holy Week preparations leading up to Easter 24 gave us the opportunity to welcome new people into our church, to have fun but also time to reflect, meditate and ultimately to celebrate on Easter Sunday.

Brunch at Bethlehem as a community event launched Christmas 23 and Eggsperience Easter, held on Palm Sunday, was an amazing way to start our Holy Week preparation for Easter 24. The band played outside for a good hour and 10 minutes – the local community just had to know that something special was going on at the Army!

To some degree the format was the same as Brunch at Bethlehem but still unique. A warm welcome as people arrived and the children were soon off on an egg hunt around the hall – not literally an egg hunt but posters with an egg on them – how did the egg get to the top of the Army flag?! As before a lot of hard work had gone into the morning. The Easter story was there - with craft and activity tables set out tracing that last week from Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his Resurrection!

Children and parents were able to

make chocolate nests from shredded wheat and chocolate containing small Easter eggs, stained glass windows, Easter gardens, blow and decorate an egg - there was a Tots' Area for the tiniest and a story area. Even air fryers were in full use – making flat bread to commemorate the Passover!

At the table designated as the Crucifixion children were able to take a black cross and with the aid of a coin scratch off the black to find colours underneath and so decorate the cross or write words such as – love, joy hope etc if they wanted. If you arrived without a job to do you were soon given one!

“ I was going to go home you know”

“ Why”

“Because I hadn't got a job”

Well, that had soon been sorted and they had been so pleased to be a part of Eggsperience Easter!!

During the morning there was a qui-



et zone for adults where Amanda led a Bible Study.

Complementary tea, coffee, juice and Hot Cross buns were available throughout the morning.

Perhaps the winner of the morning was the visit of the luscious and cuddly Easter Bunny who gave out cream eggs of all makes!!!

Captain Vanessa concluded the morning when, surrounded by children, she knelt on the floor and told the Easter story Godly Play style.



Visit of the Easter Bunny

Our main worship area had been



buzzing all morning. There had been women wearing hijabs, dads calling their children to order speaking Urdu or a Pakistani dialect (I'm not a linguist!!) – people everywhere - a guesstimate is around 180 attending with 60 children amongst that number. We are so grateful to all those who helped to make Eggsperience happen. We thank God for the blessings received and pray that the Easter Story may have become relevant to those who attended.

Holy Week Meditation

Just a few of us but for a beautiful hour or so we were able to spend time contemplating the events of Holy Week.

Prayer stations – starting with Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and moving through the cleansing of the Temple, foot washing, the Last Supper and the events from the Garden of Gethsemane to Resurrection Day were placed around the hall.

After some opening prayers we were able to move around at will – spending as much time as we needed

to as various things spoke to us – plenty of prayer aids to look at – suggestions as to what to pray for and things to touch, smell and handle to help us in our meditation. Gentle music, both contemporary and even some ancient Army tunes was played gently in the background.

The evening had been thought through and beautifully prepared by Vanessa - a pure joy and a complete blessing to have been part of such a moving experience.

Photos of some of the prayer stations at the Holy Week Meditation.



Hammer, nails and a small cross to knock them into.



Jesus cleanses the Temple and the money lenders' tables are over turned



Small cross with strips of bandage which we could take away with us if we wished. They would serve as a reminder that Jesus rose from the dead and the grave clothes were left in the tomb.

Good Friday 2024



Churches Together in Woking held its annual Good Friday Walk of Witness through the town and then shared in a united service together in Jubilee Square.

This was the first time Sam had led the walk and shared this responsibility with Major John.

Holy Week – Good Friday

Tenebrae Service

The word ‘tenebrae’ is Latin, meaning ‘darkness’. This is the day when we remember the death of Jesus. We gathered into the hall where we were invited to sit with the silence and the darkness, while asking Jesus to be with us.

The service was made from short Scripture passages read by members of the congregation, alternating with songs, and with Major John at the piano, as always, resonance between one and the other. After each Scripture reading, a candle was extinguished on the Lenten cross which was on the mercy seat.



Before us the cross was completely enshrouded in fine red material which extended out towards the people gathered - the blood of Jesus shed for the world.

Beginning with the reminder of

‘How deep the Father’s love for us’ (32) and Psalm 22: 1-2 the prophecy of the words of Jesus ‘My

God, why have you forsaken me?’ there was a solemn atmosphere, while step by step we went through the last moments of Jesus’ life.

‘O Disclose thy lovely face’ (249) words by Charles Wesley speak of the triumph of Christ the light over the shades of night, inviting Jesus to give us inward light, to pierce the gloom of sin and grief, because as Isaiah 53: 3-5 said, it was our afflictions he was bearing, it was our pain he endured.

The songs were sung as prayers, in a beautiful meditative pattern, and then as we sang ‘Lest I forget... Lead me to Calvary’ (179) and while we were invited to linger a little longer there, some could speak out prayers.

As we continued to read and sing, we could feel that we were actually there, keeping watch as Jesus died.

We read these last words of Jesus from John 19:30 “*It is finished*” and sang a beautiful song with music that was new to many of us, ‘Behold, behold the Lamb of God on the cross, on the cross’ (160). It was very moving. I hope we will sing it again.

We were sitting with Jesus in his moments of complete weakness, and then reminded from Hebrews 4: 15-16 that this is why we do not have a Lord who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, and this is why we can approach God with confidence.

Luke 23: 44-46 was read: *“into your hands I commit my spirit”* ...and the last candle was extinguished. A drum sounded!

We remained in silence.

What a beautiful challenge, to allow

ourselves this time to reflect on Jesus and feel sad, to sit with our own griefs and know Jesus has carried them, and then silently go out, hopeful in the knowledge of his victory.

Alison Campbell

Resurrection Celebration - Easter Day

Who on earth put the cross there! On Good Friday, the cross, completely swathed in deep blood red material was centre front – Easter Day, still centre front but covered in chicken wire!! And what are we supposed to do with the flowers we were asked to bring? But first ‘Up from the grave he arose’, full throated Resurrection Day singing!!

Some couldn’t see Captain Xander as he led us in worship because of the cross (Some might say that was a blessing!!) – in a sense there was a stark awkwardness about the cross and yet it was to be transformed. In a creative prayer time, as Major John played suitable music in the background, we brought our flowers forward, different varieties, roses, carnations and many more, different colours and sizes and together we adorned the cross making it into an object of beauty, changing the ugliness of death into a place of life.

We were asked to open the places in our lives that needed resurrection power.

Plenty of music as befits a ‘Resurrection Celebration’. The Band played an uplifting arrangement written by Garry Rose of ‘See what a morning’. The song, originally written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend traces the events in Jerusalem on that first Easter Day proclaiming that ‘Christ is risen from the dead’.

The Songsters sang ‘The throne of Heaven is occupied’ with some almost losing their inhibitions and almost dancing – well moving quite rhythmically!!! For a few moments we were engaged in an energetic work out as we sang the really old children’s chorus ‘Praise ye the Lord. The congregation divided in half and standing up when our half sang ‘Praise ye the Lord’ or ‘Hallelujah’ . we certainly

needed that after meeting cuppa – pity it wasn't sooner!!!

Starting with a voluntary testimony from Eric, Aggie then told us of how hers and our prayers had been answered in that her son Ethan would be joining her the next Wednesday. He had already left Zimbabwe, was in South Africa and would soon be on the last leg of the journey. Later in the week we were delighted to see photos of Ethan on his arrival.

Louise spoke of an experience when she was in a coffee shop in Holland. She mentioned the joy she especially noted when a friend of the waitress, who had been in another country, came in and stood at the counter, surprising 'our gal' as she came along with trays of food. The expression on both their faces had been of pure joy and had reminded Louise that our greatest joy will be seeing Jesus in Heaven.

The opening words of Xander's address took us into the world of video games and although it was a foreign language to some of us it captured our imagination. He preached with clarity and conviction of the Resurrection. We were left in no doubt – Death does not have the last word - He has made a way for us. He didn't consider that being part of

the Godhead made him exempt, rather He became as we are. He is the King of Heaven - the Glorified Christ. His cross and resurrection are the core to life in Christ.

The only way to conclude a 'Resurrection Celebration' such as this was by singing 'Thine is the glory,'

Thine is the glory,
Risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

It was a wonder there was a roof on the building when we got to the end!!



Resurrection Celebration – Easter Day

I really loved this idea of the flowers. It shows us coming together to create something beautiful.

Jess S

We had arrived with our bunches of flowers as requested, some with a degree of trepidation and uncertainty!!! Maybe the chicken wire gave it away. Such a simple but effective way of transforming the despair of the deep red cross of Good Friday to something of hope and new life!

Photo Ian Campbell



FutureShape - Update

Corps Treasurer Andy Stickland

On Wednesday 27 March, in the midst of Holy Week we met for our second meeting, using Faith-Based Facilitation to consider God's plan for the future of our Corps. Building on the first session where we described our current reality, session two was about reflection and evaluation. We used the SWOT model to consider our Strengths and Weaknesses as well as the Opportunities and Threats facing our church. This drew on written feedback provided by those who were unable to attend

the session in person as well as live discussion from those who attended on the night. We look forward to the next session which takes place on Wednesday 1 May where we will start the process of drawing conclusions and making plans for the future growth of our Corps and its impact in the community, building on our strengths, addressing our weaknesses, taking advantage of the opportunities we have whilst guarding against the threats we face.

Shooting Star Children's Hospices Fundraiser Coffee Morning

Jess held a fundraiser coffee morning for Shooting Star Children's Hospices and initially raised £260.25. When this was announced at the meeting on the Sunday morning Major John issued the challenge that surely we could make it £300.00! See Jess's comment and thanks!!!!

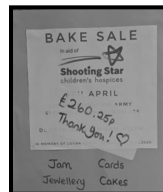
Just to let everyone know, thanks to the donations yesterday at service, we have reached £300! It is

being processed as we speak and I will get a certificate which I will photocopy to hang up in the hall as it is everybody achievement!!

Thank you again to everybody!!!

Since then the final total has risen to £325

(Jess and Luke's infant son Logan passed away in a Shooting Star Children's Hospice in 2020.)



Isaac's Donation!



Before

Isaac was so impressed by the Many Hands Project that he decided to have his hair cut and asked for any sponsorship money to go to the Lochinvar Community School in Zambia. A family friend cut Isaac's hair and his hair was donated to the Princess Trust charity which makes wigs for children who have lost their hair undergoing cancer treatment.

After

Isaac also took part in the Pen y Fan mountain climb with his Mum – Captain Vanessa. Isaac raised £685 for the Many Hands Project



The Emmaus Road -

worship led by Major Fred Thompson



Major Fred with his wife Eileen

As soon as it was announced that Major Fred Thompson would be leading worship those who know him, and that was quite a few of us, knew what we are in for. Fred is such a firebrand, so expressive and with enthusiasm which knows no bounds and so it was!

Major Fred took us on a post Easter journey to Emmaus. Lively moments as we considered the distance between Woking and various locations – Woking to Emmaus a mere 3,041 miles! Major Fred reminded us right from the beginning that when we walk through life we are not alone, we may feel lonely but we are not alone for Jesus promised his constant presence – Matthew 28:20

‘Fairest Lord Jesus’ by the Band and ‘Come, let us sing’ by the Songsters before the meeting, Martin Cordner’s arrangement of the hymn tune, ‘St Dennis’ along with the spirited ‘Go forth in his name’ by the songsters, plus Penny’s music during the offering, beautifully directed us to the words of ‘Saviour, lead me lest I stray’. All these provided moments of challenge and reflection.

The rhythmic ‘We are marching in the light of God’ certainly got us moving, his personal anecdotes and stories, Chris Todd’s reading of the account of the Emmaus Road found in Luke 24, the singing of Albert Orsborn’s beautiful ‘I know thee who thou art’ moved us through our worship to where Major Fred helped us join the disciples on their journey. All that had happened was necessary for the Kingdom to come. We may not have an Emmaus Road or Damascus Road experience no great spectacular revelation but we need to know in our hearts ‘I am Christ’s and Christ is mine!

Moments of reflection were spent listening to a recording of The Emmaus Road by Dean Goffin played by Derby Central Band and yes there was the slow plod in the music, we

caught the heavy-hearted emotions of the disciples and finally the simplicity of the chorus 'Into my heart' Our worship concluded with the robust singing of 'Lo, he comes in clouds descending,' Major Fred just itching to sing it and how he enjoyed every minute of it. By verse four his enthusiasm knew no bounds and by dint neither did ours!

Major Fred is now an officer in retirement and such a different man to the young Geordie lad who entered the Training College as a member of the Lightbringer's Session in 1970!! Reflecting on Fred's faithful ministry over the years how we thank God for his faithfulness and what he can do in and through a life that is given to him.

Father's Day 2024

Bowler Extraordinaire –Maurice Mayes



Very proud of Dad today. Dad had asked me a while back, if I could take him and Mum to Chelmsford for

the final of the British Isles Indoor Bowls Championships. From the moment we arrived, until the moment we left, the love, respect and care shown to them both was overwhelming. They were treated like bowls royalty. None of us knew it was going to happen, Dad was presented

with a lifetime membership award.* I lost count of the people, of all ages, and from all over the UK waiting to chat with or to hug Dad, he knew everyone! It was lovely to see him so valued and loved. I guess Dad's been part of the bowls world for 50ish years, but for me as a first timer in that environment, it was a pretty good day! (Jan)

'I am very proud of what dad has achieved, his commitment and enthusiasm for a sport he loves. Whatever he does, he gives 100% and it is this ethic that has inspired both Jan and I. We are thankful to both our parents for being who they are' (Cheryl)

'It's worth noting Mum's support of Dad over the years, she has learnt to



play bowls, she's accompanied Dad, cheered him on, stayed home keeping everything going whilst Dad's been away. Throughout their marriage they have supported each other and then Cheryl and I in whatever

we wanted to do or achieve, wholeheartedly and happily.' (J & C)

(Maurice is the retired Songster Leader of Woking Corps and at 91 has been involved, as has Audrey, in the Army's music ministry for a very long time! Tough times for Audrey & Maurice these days so a rewarding and encouraging occasion for both of them as we see another side of their life!!?)

**Citation. Life Membership of the BIIBC was bestowed on Maurice Mayes (England) for services to the BIIBC. (British Isles Indoor Bowls Council)*

Warmest congratulations & good wishes to

Janet & Michael Brooks

who celebrate their

Golden Wedding Anniversary

on

Saturday 1st June 2024

Comedy Hall

D.O.H.

(Department of Humour)

It was my wife's birthday and she rang me to see what time I'd be home. "I can't talk now, I'm driving," I said. "Where are you?" she asked. She wasn't happy when I replied, "at the seventh tee."

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favourite bakery. I accidentally drove past it this morning and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt it was no accident after all so I prayed, "Lord, it's up to you. If you want me to have any of those goodies, create a parking place directly outside the bakery." Sure enough on the eighth time round the block, there it was! God is good!

My boss thinks I'm a fool. Yesterday he sent me to buy a 2kg bag of sugar but they only had 1kg bags so I didn't get any. He told me I should have used my brain and got two bags. Today he sent me to buy a pair of size 6 slippers but they didn't have any so I got two pairs of size 3. I can see him in the office typing. I guess it's my promotion letter.

Mum: "Eat your breakfast".

Son: "Why?"

Mum: "You want to grow up to be smart don't you?"

Son: "No, I want to grow up to be like daddy."

Keep happy *Major Laugh*



FLOWER LIST

May

- 5 Jane and Andy Stickland
- 12 Chris Hadfield
- 19 Wendy Taylor
- 26 Denise Allison

June

- 2 TBA
- 9 Janet and Michael Brooks
- 16 Louise and Peter Stickland
- 23 Pauline Whiting
- 30 Carol Pearce

Worship –

led by Ian, Alison & Amanda

So well received was the Band's pre-meeting music that they played it again!!!. A good start for the worship leaders, Ian, Alison and Amanda.

After a call to worship Amanda led us in 'In Christ alone' A song dear to her heart during her on-going battle with cancer. Aided by Penny's music in the background there were moments of reflection during the offering time. We were soon directed to an oldie— song that is! 'This one thing I know' and we were asked to call out one thing we knew about God – starting with God's faithfulness there was a ready response after each of the verses.

This week it was Amanda's turn to be 'on the carpet'!! No, she wasn't in any trouble but gathered the children around her for the children's time before they exited for Kids Church. There were three visitors, Theo & Lily, Amanda's nephew and niece and Denzil who was attending for the first time. Mind you Isaac, at just over 10 months old crawled from the back of the hall to join the others – no way was he being left out!!!

The Band played two movements from Learn, Love and Live with

Graham Kendtlick's beautiful 'Such Love' being featured in the Love section. 'Hymn to the Conqueror' from the Songsters fitted completely with the theme for our worship - we may not be a large group and we know our limitations but what a magnificent sound we made with the triumphant verse three as we declared 'Evil shall perish – and righteousness shall reign!'

We had shared in testimony, prayed and sung together and now we turned our thoughts to areas in the world that need our support, where there is persecution and it is so very costly and dangerous to be a Christian.

Be still and know that I am God from Psalm 46, read by Kip – God is enough!

Ian went on to speak of the River of Life in Revelation 22 reminding us that we are never alone on the journey! And a reminder too somewhere along the line that it's Inter-cultural, Inter-generational and Inter-faith! (Apologies Ian, can't quite remember which main head that came under!!!)

The Water of Life found in John 7:37 -39 was linked through to the



Staff at the Lochinvar Community School in Zambia

old but precious song by the late General Orsborn, ‘When shall I come unto the healing waters’.

Ian filled us in on the *Many Hands Project taking place over the next few months to support the Lochinvar Community School in Zambia involving various people in the corps and

community. A mountain climb by Ryan and friends, Ian and his brother Craig – LE JOG – a Lands End to John o’ Groats bike ride and Jon Everett, running 110km on the Isle of Wight in 24 hours. We viewed slides of the school, the people it involves and how it all came about. Once again we had thought outside of our corps and community and to the lives that will be touched by the kindness, commitment and generosity of others and so we concluded with ‘In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north’ with the band sending us off into a new week with the joyful strains of “I’ll go in the strength of the Lord”. So be it!!!

(* Many Hands Project is written up separately in this issue)

Many Hands Project

Hayley McLoughlin

Many Hands project raises money for the Lochinvar community school in Zambia.

About 100 of the 200 children in this school are from the Twa community.

The Twa community lives far away from the school despite it being the closest school to them.

As a result, the children sleep outside the school as the distance home is too far to cover during the week.

The headteacher Ruth began her mission by building the school, using her own resources. Unfortunately, she passed away in February. Once the dormitory is built her vision will be complete.

This dorm will provide the best environment for these students and their education.

We are raising funds in 3 major ways:

On the 18th May of Jon will be running 110km in 24 hours on the Isle of Wight with his group of recovery runners.

On the 1st to the 20th of May Ian will ride from Lands End to John O’Groats joined by his brother Craig. Between them they have 143 years of experience! The route is known as LE JOG

On the 23rd of March a group hiked up Pen y Fan - a 2900ft mountain in the Brecon Beacons.

This hiking group was made up of people from Sythwood neighbourhood, friends from the addiction recovery network, and The Salvation Army congregation.

This hike aimed to not only raise money for Many Hands but also to connect with our neighbours with the overall aim being uplifting communities: Lochinvar Zambia with Sythwood neighbourhood and Salvation Army Woking UK.



The group that made the climb.

What Was it Like to Climb Pen y Fan? Alison Campbell

Everyone in the group had prepared in their own way. **Ryan** was probably best dressed for the weather that day, with layers and a face covering and waterproofs. That’s why you cannot see his face in any of the photos.

Jon wore shorts, as usual, and said he was just fine! Everyone else was somewhere in between.

Most experienced climber **Hayley** says the weather ranged from beautiful, with pretty snow, to incredibly challenging, with painful hail. And it was cold all the way.

Well done **Sam** for being a champion Scout and climbing the peak



Ryan and Sam reach the Summit

with Ryan – it was a victory for everyone!

Ian says ‘the highlight was intergenerational conversation’.

Isaac says “Isaac has decided two things about climbing the mountain:

One, Never Again. Two, I can’t wait for next time. Full stop.”

What an adventure it was, and everyone who participated hopes there will be other adventures ahead.



The climbers/hikers in action!

Worship – Transformers visit Woking!!

Well, we’d been warned and it happened – and it was great! We were invaded by teenagers – well 17 of them!! Worship for the previous two weeks had been led by guest leaders whilst our corps leaders were away on holiday. Today they were back and we were joined by a group of teenagers and their leaders from the South East Division and the London Division’s Transformers’ weekend. The Transformers programme is a 6 month course for teenagers between 13 and 17. The course has three residential weekends where the Transformers study and learn about Discipleship, Leadership and Mission. Whilst Captains Vanessa & Xander

led our worship, after a photocall, a few of the Transformers spoke of what their favourite moment had been over the weekend.

The group came from corps such as Maidstone, Clapton, Bexleyheath, Staines and others.

Two from the group, Lily, aged 13 from Staines and Joanna from Bexleyheath both spoke of the very positive impact attending the Summer School last year had on them. For their age they were both confident and convincing speakers pointing to scripture that had impacted them and helped them to grow in their faith.



The Band played Trevor Davis's lively arrangement of 'Sing your praises', suitably primed, we clapped spontaneously at the end! Penny's beautiful 'Take my life and let it be' was so appreciated as we had those quiet moments during the offering. The Songsters sang a new song 'Christ through music speaks' and received spontaneous applause!! All totally suitable when you have so many young people joining with you for worship.

Our worship centred around the post-resurrection meeting on the sea-shore between Jesus and Peter. (John 21:1-19) It was a delight to sing 'I need thee every hour' with the simple chorus 'I need Thee , O I need thee' early in the meeting and 'Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.' towards the end, both gave us plenty of time for reflection and

prayer. Every now and again we have sung some of those songs that for a generation of us were so important in our formative years, they are little sung now but good to sing them alongside newer and more modern songs.

Captain Vanessa spoke of how Peter had gone back to the thing he knew best, fishing and it was there that he encountered Jesus for the first time since his denial of Jesus before his crucifixion. Jesus however helped him to confront issues and to move him on from the guilt he felt to show him what he needed to do and be, To show him the needs of the people who needed feeding and the need of the disciples who needed nourishment so they could go out and serve, as do we, as individuals and as a church.

The coffee area was buzzing with all the visitors as we shared in coffee and chat time. As we departed, most of us going home to our Sunday roast an amazing number of pizza boxes were being carried in – box upon box – smelt absolutely delicious – now I wonder who they were for? It had been a delight to share our worship and our morning with the Transformers!!

Direct Line

In the last issue of Tidings I wrote of how we as a church fellowship were experiencing a time of sadness. Over these past weeks several requests for prayer have been circulated. If you have ever wondered if prayer and prayer requests are worth it, separate to this page, there are messages from those who have been so appreciative of the assurance of prayer support during the darkest of times.

There is a very positive vibe in the corps so listed are some things to give thanks for – I hope it encourages and excites you as you read down.

New people attending Sunday worship.

Increased number at the Full Monty men's breakfast.

Kids & Tots Church – small and working well.

Good company of community volunteers at weekday activities.

Small groups – Bible Study Groups, Craft Class.

Thriving Thursday morning Coffee & Chat. Wednesday Lunch Club.

Relationships with the local community through Neighbourhood Visits.

Worship enhancing music from Penny and the Band & Songsters.

Last but not least Captains Vanessa & Xander for their leadership.

There are more and my apologies if I've missed something dear to you.

Blessings *Freda*

Remembrance & thanks

(Follow up to the Direct Line prayer page)

David Rickman

The passing of David Rickman, Ken Searle's brother-in-law was mentioned in the March/April issue of Tidings. David and Margaret travelled to Camberlsy to visit Ken on his 70th birthday. Sadly David was taken ill, admitted to Frimley Park Hospital and passed away after 10 days. Margaret, Ken's sister has written as follows. 'I would like to express my sincere thanks for the prayerful support of your folk over the past 10 days. I felt uplifted in a blanket of prayer knowing so many people wer supporting Dave and myself. God bless' – Margaret Rickman.

Mick Brown

All of us were saddened to hear of Mick Brown's cancer diagnosis and more so that it was life limiting. Mick lost his fight with cancer on Tuesday 27 February. Mick was a much loved, larger than life guy with well in excess of 200 family and friends gathering for his Service of Thanksgiving.

Debbie, Mick's wife is grateful for the loving support she and her son Matthew have received, 'Matthew and I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers over the last few months. It is much appreciated.'

Joan Boxall

Neil has kept in touch through WhatsApp and is so grateful for all the love and prayers that have been a great source of strength to him both whilst he was caring for his Mum Joan, since her passing and during his present hospitalisation.

Jon Jarrett

Please remember Denise who recently lost her husband Jon. The funeral is family only and will be taken by Captains Will & Debbie Pearson with a Service of Thanksgiving later, possibly in June. Denise was linked to the corps for some time and has four children, Molly, Eliza, Henry and Flora. Flora was on the prayer list for quite a while when she was receiving treatment for cancer. Our love and prayers are with Denise and her family.

Come and find the quiet centre
In the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter,
Be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
Cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
Knows our being, face to face.
Making space within our thinking,
Lifting shades to show the sun
Raising courage when we're shrinking,
Finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel
Open to each other's pain,
Let our lives and fears unravel,
Celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
There's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming
There is always room to spare.

Shirley Erena Murray

We will be pleased to receive contributions for the next issue of “Tidings” from either members of our Corps Fellowship at Woking or from any who receive a copy through the post.

Please send all contributions to:

Major Freda Benneyworth

e- mail benworthyf@btinternet.com

or e-mail: peterfstickland@gmail.com

Please note
The cut off date for the next issue of
“Tidings” is

Sunday June 16th 2024

Our Mission Statement

Our fellowship exists to:-

Reach out in love and
respect to all in our
community

Encourage people to connect
to Jesus and one another.

Grow mature followers of
Jesus.