## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

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### From the C.O's Desk

Autumn is here. If you want proof just look at the TV and you'll see yet another series of Strictly Come Dancing!

I have to confess to watching Strictly in the past but I gave up when it seemed to focus more on the

gave up when it seemed to focus more on the performance of the judges rather than the contestants,

and also when survival was more about popularity than

dancing ability. I'm not sure how many weeks it is

scheduled to run, but it would be reasonable to expect

that as a celebrity progresses in the show they grow stronger, and more confident, improvement is seen

(unless your popularity outweighs your ability to move

feet body and arms in any form of coordination in relation to the music).

I understand that in all of these celebrity performance shows, there is motivation to succeed for there is a financial reward involved, however I do believe all participants are now on a set fee with everyone receiving the same payment irrespective of how far they progress in the competition. I have heard one suggestion that the "sensible thing to do is get thrown out in the first week, bank the cheque and relax for the remaining weeks" hardly the attitude to encourage the best from an individual. Having said that Jesus gives us the picture of a set fee in his parable of the workers in the vineyard in Matthew chapter 20, albeit with a different perspective.

I'm not sure how the set fee, if it is applied, will work in motivating the participants in this spiritual "competition". Perhaps it will be down to the individual's personal motivation to put in the effort to try to be the best that they can be irrespective of how many weeks they survive.

You know that's a lesson we could all take on board – personal motivation - to put in the effort to try to be the

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best that we can be. I guess we could all feel the injustice expressed by the workers in the vineyard. As for the TV programme, none of us would want to work hard only to be the runner up and receive nothing more than the one who gave up on the first week without putting in any effort, unless you could see taking part as your reward.

In my songbook I have a large question mark against a verse of one of the songs, here's why:-

Have I lost the sense of mission that inspired my early zeal, when the fire of thy commission did my dedication seal?

The question mark could be against each verse encouraging me to consider

Am I still putting in the effort to be the best that I can be? Have the disappointments of seeing others taking it easy caused me to lose sight of the ultimate prize? Have I banked the cheque without bothering to make any effort?

Every time I see these words I am challenged in my personal motivation, to put in the effort to keep working hard, to try to be the best that I can be.

Perhaps we should run a series entitled "Strictly Come Discipleship!" Now there's a thought!



# Gill's Lockdown Jottings!!

Gill Gregory



Looking back at my jottings during the last few months it is obvi-

ous that life has changed in many ways for all of us.

Not long ago we had updates from the government almost every day regarding what the latest rules were, it was quite difficult to keep up with the changes sometimes, it was also frightening to see how many people were suffering from this terrible virus on the graphs shown.

People considered vulnerable were

told they must stay at home, isolating themselves from their friends and family which must have been very hard.

All church services were stopped as were cinemas, leisure centres, schools and many other things that we take for granted.

Vital personal protective equipment was in very short supply for a while until some enterprising people made some more, the crisis brought out the best in many people, in many ways!

The hospitals were at full capacity, the staff were working many hours to care for the patients with the virus.

Gradually throughout the spring/ summer things began to improve which meant that retail shops began to open again, with many warnings to keep the rules.

Although we have been going through difficult times there have been some good times too, the beautiful weather being one of them, at times we even complained that it was

Bible Study in Gill's garden



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just too hot!

During the good weather we were able to hold some prayer meetings in my garden, this was a really special time when we were able to pray for our world and those people who we were concerned about.

We have also been able to continue our Bible studies twice a month, it is really good to meet in this way in the garden and now we are back to meeting indoors, keeping the rule of six and suitably distanced of course.

It is obvious that we are still in uncertain times, that the virus is still with us but I believe that our. God still has got the whole world in His hands!!

## CONTENTMENT

### Message from Commissioner Keith Banks



Looking for a Christmas gift idea? I am delighted that The Salvation Army (International Headquarters - Salvation Books) has re-published my book of poetry entitled *Contentment*. A CD of me reading all my poems, with skilful and sensitive music backing by Gaz Rose, has also been produced. These are available separately or as a TwinPak from Salvationist Publishing and Supplies Ltd. or from me. The book sells for £5, the CD for £7 and the TwinPak for £12. (Postage and packing when ordered from me is £1 for the Cd and £2 for the book / twinpack). Every penny to The Salvation

Army. Do feel free to contact me for more information or to place an order on: keithbanks42@yahoo.com.

Contentment is also available as a download from SPS Tunes. The link is https://www.spstunes.com/content01.html

### From Audio Book website

Keith Banks reads his poetry in a powerful and engaging way. From heartfelt verse reflecting on loss and personal circumstances to witty everyday observations, the poet's voice convincingly conveys aspects of his personal journey. Many of the poems feature complementary music arranged or composed by Gary Rose.

### Be encouraged, the Lord has great plans! Lock down stories – Colonel Mary Elvin China



In 1988 The Salvation Army returned to China to carry out emergency relief work in response to a series of disasters including

earthquakes and floods. Next came the rebuilding of bridges and wells and the provision of clean drinking water. The bridges and wells were given biblical names as 'Well of Salvation' and 'Bridge of Righteousness'

The UK Territory marked the new Millennium by introducing the 'Mustard Seeds' project. The designated area for a three year project included some of the poorest minority groups in Yunnan Province. Using a system of community micro-credit, in 17 villages, increased their crops, and building pig-pens



(an aid to reducing the pollution of drinking water} A barefoot doctor scheme was introduced. A school was built for primary education and training for adults. Within two years 75 percent of the initial loans were repaid by the 17 villages.



the eldest 11
years protective of his 9 year old
brother. The adobe house where
they lived collapsed killing their
mother. They were given space to
stay inside the home of an elderly
neighbour who himself lived below
the poverty line.

So now.

Be encouraged...the Lord has many plans.





# Be encouraged, the Lord has great plans! Lockdown Stories Colonel Mary Elvin HAITI

In 1991 There was a Military Coup in Haiti, which overturned the elected government. Widespread international embargoes followed. Finally. in 1993 an amnesty was agreed and Peace Keeping forces from the USA took charge in 1994.

During the next 18 months, to maintain order, restrictions were imposed on movement, lines of communication were non-existent so shared information was virtually impossible. A widespread LOCK DOWN.'

For Salvation Army officers it meant no contact with each other or DHQ. No Salaries, during this time, could be paid to officers from DHQ. This continued until 1996!

In 1996 the officers were coming together for the first time for Councils. We had the privilege of conducting those first every emotional meetings. Listened to their stories. Not one officer was lost or left their appointment, All corps restricted





Above: Port au Prince Hall now destroyed

Below: School assembly at Port au Prince Secondary School



programmes continued including the many basic schools and social ministries.

The SA in Haiti is amazing. Today it has the largest Corps in the Western Hemisphere of 1,500 soldiers in Port Au Prince.

Be encouraged the Lord has great plans.



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## Kathleen Joan Clark



It is surprising how small a part of life is made up of meaningful moments. It is only occasionally that one is able to recall them and even more rarely that one is asked to write about them. This is one such opportunity that I have been given to write about my mum.

Kathleen Joan Tilley was born on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1923 in Devizes, Wiltshire, the third of seven children. Aged five, she attended St. James' Church School where she was good at most subjects, in particular maths and very bright at question time (26 years later this was also my first school).

In her journal, she writes how it was that they started going to The Salvation Army:- 'It happened this way. The Vicar of St. Mary's Church, which was nearby, visited us and asked my mum and dad if he would see them at church. Mum said they had three small

children – Muriel, Eileen and Kathleen - so the Vicar suggested they took turns to come. A few days later a voung Lieutenant from The Salvation Army called and asked the same question. Mum again replied that they had three small children. "That's alright" said the enthusiastic officer, "bring them along too. We're very noisy at the Army! You'll fit right in!" So we all went along, where we were dedicated and mum and dad got saved. They both became songsters, dad played the drum in the band and was often a vocal soloist: he had a lovely tenor voice. We three girls, and later Noreen. joined the Singing Company when mum became Singing Company Leader'.

When the Second World War was declared in September 1939, she was 15 vears old and had just left school. It was of course at The Salvation Army that she met her future husband. She tells it like this:- 'When I was in the Singing Company and Corps Cadets, there was a boy who kept winking at me across the hall. His name was Fred. I knew he had another girlfriend who wasn't Army and I told him he had better make his mind up. So he did. We went out alone for our first walk together when we were both sixteen. He tried to hold my hand but I wouldn't have it. It was after 10 o'clock when I got home and my dad told him off. Fred and I developed an 'understanding'. During the war he was overseas in North Africa, then Italy and Greece'.

On Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> 1946, dad came home on leave and they were married at The Salvation Army in New

#### November/December

Park Street, Devizes. Kathleen (now known by her second name Joan) had two bridesmaids, her vounger sister Noreen and her best friend Alice Jones. They were allowed only two official photographs due to wartime restrictions. About twelve people attended the wedding lunch as food was strictly rationed, which consisted of salad, potatoes and corned beef followed by black cherries and evaporated milk. There was a small wedding cake made by Mrs. Giddings from the Army. After a few days of honeymoon, dad went back overseas to Greece for a vear before demobilisation in January 1947.

Dad was employed by Shell UK Ltd. It was inevitable that they would move from Devizes as his career progressed, firstly to Gloucester in 1956, then later to Bristol. Joan dutifully followed with two young boys, Kenneth and David, in tow. She missed her tightly-knit family very much, who mostly remained in and around Devizes.

In all of this, The Salvation Army played a prominent part in her life. She made sure that dad and us boys were smartly turned out each Sunday and supported all our activities. She herself was a loyal songster when dad was Songster Leader, both at Devizes and Gloucester, and occasionally featured as a soloist, her favourite being an American song by Thomas Chisholm, "Living for Jesus (a life that is true)". She later became Home League Treasurer for many years. When I was appointed Bandmaster at Bristol Citadel in April 1976, she wrote me a small note which said, "Aim to be a good leader".

In Bristol and Worthing, where they retired to, they had a policy of 'openhouse' for Sunday lunch and there are

many who remember the Clark's hospitality with love and affection.

In December 1981, her grand-daughter Jennifer was born, whom she thereafter referred to as 'a golden ray of permanent sunshine'. She and dad celebrated their Diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversary in February 2006, but dad was Promoted to Glory just five weeks later. Her life was incredibly brightened by the arrival of her greatgrandchildren, Maggie Olivia and Amy Grace. The last few years in Woking gave her many extra blessings as her health steadily declined, especially enjoying the band and songsters. She was a knowledgeable musical critic and letter writer. She knew when something was good, or not so good, and often said so! She also wrote a book entitled 'A Condensed Story of My Life As I Remember It'. She was Promoted to Glory on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August, aged 96.

I am immensely privileged that she was my mother.

Kenneth John Clark Bandmaster Central Southern Area Fellowship (CSAF) Band Page 10 Tidings

# **Surprise Sunday Sounds for Pearl!**

When your CO asks you to do something, the answer is of course yes.

A few weeks ago Margaret asked if Jo and I would be free to make up a band and play some tunes to Pearl at her flat. As many will know Pearl is unable to read the printed service plan and unfortunately does not have internet access so has been unable to benefit from any of Woking Salvation Army's Sunday services since lockdown. Looking at the diary for the planned Sunday Jo and I would be on holiday so we had to politely decline

On the scheduled Sunday, the Big Boss had other ideas and due to inclement weather the event was cancelled. So a second chance to say yes to one's CO was granted and again the answer was of course.....yes.

Now for the problem – could I still play my euphonium (some would say I couldn't play it in the first place but that's another story). So I opened the instrument case, moths flew out and I picked up my Euph. Would the valves work – no, Ooops; had it been that long since I last played it? After all it has been in my office at home – but hadn't moved from the corner I put it in in March. So after a bit of maintenance (a wooden spoon was used) the

valves started working and I could eventually learn how to play again.

Now moving to the Sunday. The uniform came out of the wardrobe and ves it still fitted – shocking I know. So off we went to Aldershot to surprise Pearl. As you know Covid rules preclude the whole band meeting together to play, but 6 can play – socially distanced (picture shown is 2 pictures stitched together as we were too far apart to get us all into one). So Margaret, David, Roger, Jo and Dave along with myself pitched up outside Pearl's flat and we started playing. I think Pearl had seen us before we started playing but it didn't really matter. Margaret had chosen 12 hymns/songs to play and assuming our lips held out we would get as many of them in as possible.

At the start Pearl was very quiet, may be shell shocked that we had turned up to play to her, but by the start of the second tune she was 'on form', singing along and really enjoying the band – well the men of the band as Pearl so quickly agreed when Margaret mentioned it!

Gwen was on hand to record the band and those in the Corps WhatsApp group will have seen/heard the band. It was also posted on Facebook and as I type it has

been viewed 641 times – wowzers.

It was lovely to see some of Pearl's neighbours come out to listen to us and some good conversations were had. It was, as you can imagine, a real privilege to be able to visit Pearl, to enable her to once again join in fellowship with her friends – some of which haven't seen her for 7 months.

Hopefully the band (in some form or another) will be able to play again, somewhere.



#### Woking Corps - Open for business In line with Covid-19 Guidelines **Sunday Morning Worship at 11 am Booking required** Please contact Corps Leaders Majors David & Margaret House Telephone 01483 793704 Email david.house@salvationarmy.org.uk margaret.house@salvationarmy.org.uk

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# NEW BOOKS CHRISTMAS NEW BOOKS Ideal for Christmas ALBERT STRIDEMORE'S LOCKDOWN DISCOVERIES By Chick Yuill

Seventy-five-year-old, green-fingered Albert Stridemore's carefully ordered life has been unchanged for years. Content to live alone and diligently work his allotment, he safely buries the past as he turns the soil. But with the arrival of the coronavirus and lockdown, he finds himself digging up more than just potatoes in the spring.

With time to think and an unexpected new acquaintance in the attractive widow Penny Finch, Albert is compelled to revisit past betrayals, even as his eyes are opened to a generous and richer world in the present.

And when injustice is exposed as the virus strikes close to home, Albert is thrust into a new role and makes the most unexpected discoveries...

# TO THE FOURTH GENERATION By Chick Yuill

Zander Bennings' writing has bought him a lifestyle his parents and grandparents could never have imagined. But when he is confronted with the cold reality that his success is built upon a lie, he is plunged into a desperate search for truth and forgiveness

Delving into his family's past, through the battlefields of World War One and down the three generations before his own, he discovers that the men of his family have each been forced to embark upon this same unsettling quest

Tracing their lives, and those of the women who held the family together, Zander discovers the search is not in vain, and that while family ties can be broken, they can never be truly severed – even to the

fourth generation

#### TO ORDER

TO THE FOURTH GENERATION is now £11 and ALBERT STRIDEMORE'S LOCKDOWN DISCOVERIES is £11.50 - both prices include p&p

To order a signed copy of either book please either send a cheque payable to C Yuill to 178 Lawnhurst Avenue, Manchester, M23 9RO

OR email Margaret at <u>margaretyuill@martyart.co.uk</u> for bank details, if online payment is preferred

# Comedy Hall D.O.H. (Department of Humour

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store when he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?"

The little boy replied, "Just go straight down this street and take the second turning on the right. It's next to the Library on the left hand side."

The man thanked the boy and said, "I'm the new vicar. If you come to church on Sunday, I'll show you how to get to Heaven."

The boy laughed. "What?? You don't even know the way to the Post Office!!"

A ship engine failed and no one could fix it so they brought in a guy with 40 years experience. He inspected the engine carefully from top to bottom. He then reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something and the engine sprang to life.

Seven days later the owners got a bill for £5,000.

"What?" the owners said, "You hardly did anything. Send an itemised bill."

The reply read:

4

Tapping with hammer £2

Knowing where to tap £4,998

A local priest and vicar stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that read, "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the bend they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergy to the other, "we should just put up a sign that reads, "bridge down" instead?"

Keep smiling

Major Laugh

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## Who is in control?

The Government is unsure what to do about the pandemic, as are the rest of us, The scientists and doctors learning about it, and politicians make a guess about it. There is One who knows everything about Corvid19, but we will ignore Him as we have little faith in Him.

Who is in command of our life, are we? How did you decide when you would be born? How did you select your parents? How have you managed to determine your physical characteristics, progress etc? And so the questions continue. It looks to me that we have very little control over our lives. Why worry, I'll get through with a bit of luck and careful management of my body.

Who is missing in our life? Almighty God, the Creator God, who determines how far we can go in everything we do, (Ecc8:8).

Almost everyone who has been on TV, have been from the scientific or medical fraternity advising how to survive this pandemic No church leader has stood up, or been asked to offer advice, or give instructions on what is needed by God. It makes me wonder how much we believe the Bible, perhaps we simply see it as a book of old stories. My understanding of the dead sea scrolls and archaeological findings in the last 70

years, confirm Biblical accuracy rather contradict it. When we refuse to acknowledge God, we are unable to know His will (Ecc 11:5) and so we flounder in our sin, and suffer the consequences. We live in a time when "sin" becomes meaningless, we don't sin, we make mistakes because we're not perfect, hence it is just an error, or is it?

The Bible is the only authority available to enable us to define sin. A search of the Scriptures concerning "sin" clearly enables sin to be defined as follows: sin is defined in relation to God and his moral law. Sin includes thought, desire, or ambition to please self rather than obey God. If we believe God, then sin is much more than a simple mistake, it cost Jesus His life and he experienced all the horrors of hell. Applying the truths of Scripture to our own life through the direction of the Holy Spirit, will enable us to change the world and overcome the virus. Not by might but by my Spirit says the Lord. May Almighty God help us to glorify His Holy Name.

Eric



So, by the end of October we'll be 229 days into the pandemic. On occasions confused, certainly apprehensive and oft times fearful. We started the year with the usual anticipation of what the New Year might hold. Whatever the future held for us we trusted it to God's care and keeping. Then the Coronavirus made its debut! 2020 has been nothing like we hoped and expected and we have been led down different and unexpected pathways. Faith has been tested and on occasions faltered. Prayers on occasions have not been answered in the way we wanted or hoped for. Yet our God is faithful.

We have embraced modern technology, emails, Zoom, WhatsApp and others methods to keep in touch, to share concerns and congratulations, to encourage each other but above all to let each other know when prayers were needed.

It would be inappropriate to mention those we have prayed for or are praying for as I would be bound to miss someone but our prayers continue.

For those who have been or are, and that would possibly include most of us, struggling with all of this, may we rest in He who will not fail us.

As we move into Advent, Christmas and then into 2021 it seems apt to end the year with the blessing used in the January / February issue of Tidings.

The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24 -26)

Stay safe and blessed Freda

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# What we've been up to!

A requested reflection on the past months of work, worship and witness.

(We are indeed grateful for the way our corps leaders have grasped the nettle so to speak!)

No doubt some of you may have wondered whatever we have been doing as your Corps Officers during lockdown. Well I hate to admit it but there were just a couple of occasions when I thought to myself "wouldn't it have been nice to have been furloughed". Those of you who unfortunately were (from whatever sphere of work you find yourself in), are probably ready to "swing for me" right now. And I have heard, from people who were furloughed from work, that these months have been really quite horrendous for them. So I apologise right at the beginning for even having such thoughts. But at least it shows that I am human! Apologies to those of you who believe that I should be way above even having such terrible thoughts.

When lockdown first began we received

a number of requests for food parcels, which we either packed up and delivered ourselves from our supply at the centre or we would refer people to the foodbank, which has been operating from a warehouse in Sheerwater and then they have delivered the parcels via their volunteers. When the government gave out the weekly parcels to those classed as "shielding", we would receive phone calls asking if we could collect the food that they had received by those who felt that they didn't need such assistance and very often we would take the fresh food that we received up to the neighbourhood stall that one of our" neighbourhood volunteers" was running from her home in Brookfield. Most weeks, David and I would take a walk through the estate opposite the centre and we would

### Name the Christmas Carols

1	SNHN	11 LCDAC
2	OCAYF	12 AFTROG
3	HTHAS	13 CASTHM
4	AIAM	14 ITBM
5	OLTOB	15 JBJBJATW
6	WSWTFBN	16 GCMR
7	WTKOOA	17 SATWS
8	ICUTMC	18 TFN
9	OIRDC	19 AWGMOO
10	ISTSCSI	Answers on Page 22

chat to people and ascertain how things were going with them. As time went by our local "neighbourhood visits" recommenced and we along with other team members would visit local people on their doorsteps and chat about how they were feeling during the pandemic and about things that were troubling them. We always began with prayer outside the centre and would then make our way around the neighbourhood as directed by Alison.

From the very first week of Lockdown we commenced a weekly Bible study group using Zoom. Now that was new to us all but week by week, we have got used to each other, to the format and I must admit that it has been good to receive our teaching from David, who has prepared valiantly every week a passage for our study. It has been amazing that we have had between 16-22 people most weeks, with even Petra joining us from Germany. How amazing is that? I am not too sure that if the study were carried out every week from the hall, we would have had so many people in attendance. The fact that people have not had to travel after a day spent at work, surely is the reason for that.

We have also had to hold the Corps Council meeting over Zoom on at least two occasions so far and we are grateful to Andrew for setting up all of the zoom meetings.

There were occasions very early back in April, where we were asked to provide clothes for elderly people finding themselves in care homes or on one occasion taking clothes to a gentleman who had just been released from Prison.

Sadly we have had to close the shop, which gave us some early mornings in

trying to empty it. We were grateful that Andy came up with the idea of The Salvation Army Trading Company collecting the goods, which would then be distributed to other shops. Funnily enough when I asked them, the answer was a resounding "no, we can't collect from your shop". But when Andy phoned (because he knew a man who can), then the answer was "yes" and they came within two days. It just goes to prove that its not "what you know, it's who you know". We are grateful to the group who cleaned the shop and helped in any way during the closure. I must express our appreciation to Wendy too for her vears of service and to all of the volunteers. We are really sad that it has come to this, but the Corps Locals, along with Wendy, felt that it was the right step to take. For anyone to lose their job though, is really quite upsetting and we were really saddened to have to do it but we are very grateful to Wendy for her understanding. And I do believe that Roger and Wendy are still continuing as they strive to sell various things that are valuable via ebay and other outlets.

Also during this time, Gill has continued to hold her Bible study group, by email at first and then through a group gathered in her garden. Lunch and the Bible study have I know, been thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies who have participated.

There have been prayer meetings, held every other week, in either the communal garden of Janet and John, or Gill's garden. One of Janet and John's neighbours even joined the group during one such meeting. As the weather had become colder on the last occasion, we met together within the Army hall, and met for prayer in our group of 6, as instructed by the Government.

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Every Wednesday the corps papers have arrived. At one point this was the only way that we really knew what day it was, during early lockdown when the days all kind of blended into each other. Sometime every Thursday, David and I would deliver the army papers locally, often calling for a chat on the doorstep and every other week, we would make the journey out to the Farnborough area and take the Army papers to the folk living that way. Again, we would often stop and chat but more recently have actually arranged "garden visits" or some folk have actually come to the quarters garden where we have engaged in conversation and prayer. Very early on in lockdown, it was actually rather exciting to be able to travel around and deliver the papers. How sad had we become?! Not only did it enable us to get out and about but it enabled us to have contact with our corps people and that was a delight. I think we have actually managed to see nearly everyone associated with the corps now and sadly it looks as though those kind of visits may have to finish for the time being, with vet more restrictions coming into force. I don't think it right as yet, that we should go into too many people's houses as we risk putting more people in danger of catching the virus. Not that we have it, but you never know. I guess we will have to revert to pastoral phone calls and just door step visits, but we will try our best to continue to be available to all of you should you need us.

We have been privileged to have received a number of gift bags and afternoon tea bags from The Silver Charity, which we have enjoyed delivering both to older Corps folk and luncheon club members and it has been great to see them on their door steps.

Sadly we also have had three funeral services to conduct, all in very different ways to normal, but we have learnt our way around the system and buildings of the Country's oldest Crematorium.

We have tried our best to keep in touch with people by phone calls and indeed early on a phone call care pastoral team was set up (a suggestion given by Andrew as that was happening at International Headquarters) and we are grateful to the leaders of those teams who have taken on the task of keeping in touch with people.

Every Sunday we have had a meeting to prepare and it seems to take much longer than normal. We sent these out by email initially, or delivered, paper copies by hand, with links to music but as time went by, we were encouraged by the more modern among us to have a go at recording our worship and putting it on YouTube. We are really grateful to Naomi and Gavin who week by week, put this worship together for us after we have done the recordings, and indeed some of you have participated and we are grateful. Who can forget the occasion when Freda read from the book of Ruth with the mention of becoming pregnant and giving birth to sons. There she was in her garden, in her uniform, adorned with her red nail varnish!

. There was one occasion when Naomi was away visiting her Mum and David had to put the YouTube worship together himself. He had never done it before and really hadn't a clue where to begin but after a little tuition from the Corps Officer at Basingstoke (in Andrew and Jo's garden), he managed, although it took him hours that week!

Approximately 3 months ago we received a call from Asda who informed us that they would like to donate £50

worth of goods of our choosing up until Christmas. We have visited the store every month since and have collected a good supply of toiletries and intend to make up "welcome packs" of these supplies for the residents of the new premises next door to the centre when they arrive, as they should begin to do so very soon now. How nice that has been to meet with the manager and staff and to discuss the impact that the virus has had on the staff as they continued to work and how generous of them to make such a donation. We are really grateful.

As we have begun to get ready to reopen the corps building, there have been risk assessments to undertake, licence agreements to draw up as some had lapsed and the various groups who use the hall to meet with. There have been new cleaning schedules to draw up and even new companies to make contact with and now I guess we prepare to see where we go in regard to the "Parcel day" and how that can happen safely within the restrictions that we will have to adhere to.

I don't profess in anyway, that this has all been an easy time. It has really seemed very difficult in so many ways. We have had to learn a new way of working, we have had to find our way around things that we didn't even know how to do, or where things. were kept. We have really missed Amanda's input and leadership within the community programme and we pray that as soon as possible Amanda will be back working with us where we all belong.

The most recent happening was just last Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> October), when 6 of us from the band and Gwen went along to play some music to Pearl. Pearl is the only member of the corps without internet, cd player, or able to see well enough

to read worship resources. We had a lovely time there on the lawn of her housing development. We could hear her singing and other members of the complex came out and listened. It actually made me feel rather emotional being able to go out and minister in that way with a small group.

Well that's just a little idea of what we have been up to. We look now to the future and to reopening our building, carefully and safely. Bless you all and thank you for your help and kindness shown towards us during this time. It really has been a time of great learning for all of us but by God's grace, we have come this far and so we can continue a little while longer if we really have to. Our priority is to all of you and doing our best to keep you all safe, but also to let you know that we do care for you all.

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# Sunday 18 October 2020 – Open for business again!!!

After lengthy and careful consideration, completely within Govt. guidelines and Covid secure, Woking opened its doors for Sunday worship again for the first time since March 15<sup>th</sup>. Who would have thought that when we worshipped together for our Self Denial Altar Service that Sunday, under the leadership of Major Heather Poxon, that within days we would be plunged into Lockdown! That the hall would remain closed and we would be worshipping in many different ways. Zoom came into our lives and we were also able to worship with so many other churches and corps through Facebook. YouTube and so on.

People were justifiably cautious as to when the corps should reopen as there are a lot of conditions that have to be put in place and observed. We are all too well aware of how quickly guidelines, the number of people who can meet and where and how

can change.



A new norm then. Places have to be booked in advance, seats set out so that attendees are socially distanced and masks, unless for a specif-



ic health issue, worn and no singing. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 people including Majors David & Margaret met for worship.

Penny played before the worship began. Something unexpected, but a beautiful love offering which, through the wonders of a mobile phone, we were able to listen to and helped to make us feel a part of the worship, even if we were in Cornwall! Photographs of those present and a personal account of how things went from Dennis gave us an idea of how things were.

### RETURN TO THE HALL.

A few of our happy band of brothers and sisters gathered together to worship last Sunday, 18th October, at the hall for the first time since March. It was so nice to be in our beloved building once again, but we had to keep to strict social distancing, and sadly no singing or playing of instruments.

So it was, well quiet. But my heart was full of joy at just being there. I must say that personally I missed



the singing, but it is for our own good. I felt I needed to be there to pray for my family especially my brother.

As the song says, How

can I keep from singing...

Dennis

This is just the beginning and we wait to see if there are any changes but for now, if you can, make sure you book your place and have your mask ready but wherever you wor-

ship stay safe – stay blessed.

P.S Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> saw us share in the Territorial Congress with some of our musicians playing outside the hall prior to the meeting. (FB)



## 

The past few months have been quiet!
Contacts have been kept mainly through text and phone, with some visits by Majors Margaret and David, and by Pete and Louise.

In December the team will be out again and greeting people before Christmas.

Also neighbourhood connectors want to meet to share stories and for encouragement.

Dates to be confirmed.

Please continue to pray for the corps neighbourhood.

New team-mates are always welcome.

Please speak with Janet T, Alison Campbell or Majors David & Margaret if you would like to join the team.

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# **Answers Name the Christmas Carol**

1 Silent night, Holy	11 Love came down at	
night	Christmas	
2 O come all ye faithful	12 Angels from the	
-	realms of Glory	
3 Hark the herald angels	13 Christians awake sa-	
sing	lute the happy morn	
4 Away in a manger	14 In the bleak midwin-	
	ter	
5 O little town of Beth-	15 Jingle bells. Jingle	
lehem	bells, jingle all the way	
6 While shepherds	16 Good Christian men	
watched their flocks by	rejoice	
night	-	
7 We three kings of Ori-	17 See amid the winter	
ent are	snow	
8 It came upon the mid-	18 The first Noel	
night clear		
9 Once in royal David's	19 As with gladness	
city	men of old	
10 I saw three ships		
come sailing in		

110	vember/December rage 2	.5			
********					
米		米			
米	write a poem for Remembrance Day.	米			
米	An hour later (without any help) he produced this.	米			
*	(, <del>-</del> , <del>-</del> p	*			
<b>※</b>	One Thousand Man Ana Walking	ント			
7/	One Thousand Men Are Walking	*****			
米	7	彩			
米	One thousand men are walking	兴			
*	Walking side by side	米			
*	Singing songs from home	※			
1/2	The spirit as their guide	1			
***	they walk toward the light milord	イン			
7/	they walk towards the sun	不			
*	they smoke and laugh and smile together	兴			
米	no foes to outrun	米			
米	these men live on forever	米			
米	in the hearts of those they saved	米			
*	a nation truly graterur	米			
<b>※</b>	ior the path of peace they paved	米			
7/2					
米	but they do not march for war	米			
米	step closer to salvation	米			
米	a tranquil steady corps	米			
米	the meadows lit with golden beams a beacon for the brave	米			
*	a beacon for the brave	米			
米	the emerald grass untrampled	米			
	a reward for what they gave they dream of those they left behind	イン			
*	and know they dream of them	*			
米	C ' 11 C' 11	米			
米	there walks one thousand mon	米			
米	there wants one thousand men	米			
***	Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14)	米			
*	3001141 2 y 01 201) (4804 14)	米			
米	Goes to show that the young can still surprise us.	米			
米	•	米			
米	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<b>水</b>			
ジ	1 osted by Mich Diaster on Paceovok	イン			
*	<del>,</del>	米			
米		米			
**********					

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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

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or e-mail: peterfstickland@gmail.com

### Please note

The cut off date for the next issue of "Tidings" is

**Sunday December 13th 2020**