




# Church at Home

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**

Sunday worship on is on  **YouTube**

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate) and select **Church on YouTube**

You can also find us by searching on YouTube and on the Ramsgate Facebook page.

**But we want to still “meet together”** and share our thoughts and prayers and testimonies. It will give a chance to share how God has spoken to us during the meeting – and allow us to encourage each other.

So we will have a **ZOOM** meeting at **11.15am**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> **10 am**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> **11.15 am**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 12 noon

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 4.30 pm

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm

Ramsgate worship on **YouTube**

ZOOM fellowship

Youth Group

Children’s Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)

Divisional Prayer Gathering (see poster)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 9am

ZOOM Quiz  
ZOOM Churches Prayer Breakfast

## Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167

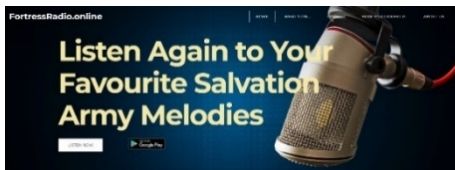


This week we have included DVDs for those of you who we don't think can access the service over the internet. This is possible because we have a high speed DVD writer that can copy 7 discs at a time. So please tell us if you did not get a disc with this newsletter and would like one – or if you do not want a disc. If you do not have a DVD player – let us know and we will try to help.

### Songs of Praise Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 1.15pm

Claire McCollum is in Dundee, where the River Tay meets the North Sea.

There's brand new music from Barbara Dickson and Sir Cliff Richard and songs from Dundee Steeple Church, all recorded within government guidelines.



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio.

Start the day with Knee Drill Prayers led by Major Keith White

Holiness Hour is again led by Majors Ian and Susan Woodgate

Finally, the Salvation Meeting is led by Marc Harry. For the best of 'Army' music, make Fortress Radio your 'go-to' station. Listen again to your favourite Salvation Army melodies on Fortress Radio. **Every day** from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm we broadcast Salvation Army. Check out the schedules for more details.

<https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

**Maggie** is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



### **Birthdays**

Tara 5<sup>th</sup> November

### **Prayers please for**

Those unwell or in recovery; Peter Ford after his time in hospital, Janet, after her operation; Major Murial Beagley following her operation – and now recovering at home. Mo Jollah struggling after some challenging experiences, Al's awaiting further surgery. Pray this will come soon.; Adrian and Megan both friends of Jason; David also awaiting surgery, Paul, son of Hazel who has started his chemotherapy; Brenda Austin and Liz Harden. The neighbours of Eileen. Continue to pray for Archie – and Lisa and Scott.

### **Pray for OWT returning after the holiday on 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Julie and the team will be meeting in Ellington Park Pray that this will be a success and the families will rekindle their link with us

### **PRAYER GATHERING**

Ask Carl if you need help booking a free ticket

<https://divisional-prayer-gathering-nov20.eventbrite.co.uk/>



## ST. LAWRENCE, HIGH STREET.

Wheatsheaf, opposite St. Laurence Church is a later building of a much older pub. The old Wheatsheaf stood on the same site but was an 18th or 19th century two storey building, selling Tomson & Wotton's Pale and mild Ales and Landon Porter. On the wall of the pub were several advertisements, for the Daily Chronicle, for Lloyd's News, and for Friend, Vinten and Son, Estate Agents.

The old inn was demolished in the early years of this century and replaced by the present one. Thanks again to David Richards.



## Some thoughts from Major John

**Come Lord Jesus, pour out your Spirit we pray.**

We the people of thy host'  
Standing here before thee,  
For thy power, O Holy ghost,  
We as one implore thee!

Send the power, send the power,  
Send it, we implore thee.  
Fill us with the Holy Ghost  
As we bow before thee.

The above song came to mind recently in my prayer time. It is amazing how God brings these songs back in times of contemplation and devotion, even when it is many, many years since I can remember singing it. The song was written by Emma Booth-Tucker, one of William and Catherine Booths daughters. (348 SASB) One of the things I noticed was the use of the word 'implore'.

In my dictionary the definition of implore says, 'to beg or ask earnestly, plead with; beseech; supplicate.' It challenges me, am I in earnest in my prayer life? Am I imploring God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

I'd like to share with you two excerpts from different books that have been an encouragement to me in recent days. The first one is from a late Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan and it comes at the end of the piece when he has been thinking on Psalm 46. His heading says, 'In Times when the World Seems to Have Gone Mad.'

'Remember that God is not dependent on the big battalions to do his work. He has a way of working through minority groups, or even individuals, undistinguished people, even men and women who are unconscious of being agents of power.'

That means that you, far though you be from what most conceive of as the corridors of power, can be the centre of serenity in a world that seems to have gone mad.

**If the room where you live becomes a place of prayer, it may be more potent for good than the council-chambers of the nations, potentates'**

Charlie Cleverly, recently retired Rector of St. Aldates, Oxford, wrote of his joy at learning that a group of graduates from his church were meeting and praying for revival. He also echoed the words of Donald Coggan, saying, 'We can say the destiny of a nation is not in the hands of politicians or business people but literally in the hands of the people of God who pray'.

In last week's 'Salvationist', there was a letter urging we Salvationists to be praying for revival, it made reference to 2 Chronicles 7 verses 13/14, which we have thought about recently.

Can we capture the earnestness that took hold of Emma Booth-Tucker, imploring God to 'Fill us with the Holy Spirit, to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit? Become an Army of intercessors praying for revival?

We could use some the words of song 220 SASB as our prayer.

Great is the darkness that covers the earth,  
Oppression, injustice, and pain.  
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair,  
Though many have come in your name.  
Watching while sanity dies'  
Touched by the madness and lies.

May now your Church rise with power and love'  
This glorious gospel proclaim.  
In every nation salvation will come  
To those who believe in your name.  
Help us bring light to this world  
That we might speed your return.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour out your Spirit we pray.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus,  
Pour out your Spirit on us today.  
Amen.**

## **Time to Smile**

When the theatre audience returned to their seats in the stalls after the interval, the occupants of one row found a man lying across three of the seats. When they asked him to move, he just mumbled and lay where he was. An usher was called and again asked the man to move. Once again he mumbled and stayed put.

The usher called for the house manager, who came bustling into the stalls and said to the man, 'Now, look sir. We've asked you politely several times to leave these seats and unless you move, I will have no choice but to call the police.'

The man mumbled and remained motionless. Two police officers arrived, 'Be a good gentleman' one of them said to the man lying across the seats. 'We don't want this to go any further do we?'

'What's your name?' asked the other officer in a kindly voice.

'Tony,' gasped the man.

And where have you come from, Tony? Asked the other officer, realising that they were at last getting through to the man sprawled over the seats.

'The balcony,' mumbled man.

A man walked into a pet shop and saw a beautiful bird that was not only beautifully but also spoke seven different languages.

He bought the bird and had it sent to his home.

When he got home later in the day, he said to his wife, 'Did you get the bird I sent home earlier?'

'Yes' she said, 'I've got it in the oven now.' He said, 'What? In the oven? That bird speaks seven different languages!'

She said, 'Well why didn't he say something?'

An old lady bought a parrot and all the parrot could say was, 'Who is it?' No matter what you asked the parrot, that's all he knew. 'Who is it? Who is it?' One day the plumber came to the door and knocked and the parrot yelled, 'Who is it?' He said, 'it's the plumber' The parrot kept asking 'Who is it? Who is it?' The plumber kept answering back 'it's the plumber. It's the plumber.' In the end he got so exhausted he collapsed on the front door step. A crowd gathered round him and one of them said, 'Who is it ?' The parrot yelled, 'It's the plumber!'

Waiter, this chicken's got one leg shorter than the other.  
Well, sir. 'What do you want to do? Eat it or dance with it?'

### Quiz

- 1.What is the name for a German from Hamburg?
- 2.In the ancient world what type of gardens were created at Babylon?
- 3.In which US state is Miami?
- 4.Which name for a dissolving substance also means financially in the black?
- 5.Which fabric is made by worms?

### Animal World

- 1.What small breed of dog has a German name meaning badger dog?
- 2.What does an ungulate animal have?
- 3.Lanolin is a by product of which domestic animal?
- 4.If a mammal has albinism what colour are its eyes?
- 5.What is the reindeer of North America called?

**Anagram** What is the only English anagram of CLOBBER?

<p><b>Answers</b></p> <p><b>Quiz</b></p> <p>1.Hamburger 2.Hanging Gardens 3.Florida 4.Solvent 5.Silk</p> <p><b>Animal World</b></p> <p>1.Dachshund 2.Hooves 3.Sheep 4.Pink 5.Caribou</p> <p><b>Anagram</b> The only English anagram of CLOBBER is COBBLER.</p>
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## Worship at home 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020



### **We Worship You**

Lord You are good and Your mercy endureth forever  
Lord You are good and Your mercy endureth forever  
People from every nation and tongue  
From generation to generation

We worship You hallelujah hallelujah  
We worship You for who You are  
For who You are  
For who You are  
You are good

Yes You are  
So good so good  
Yes You are

You are good all the time  
All the time You are good  
Lord You are good and Your mercy endureth forever

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Merciful God,

we gather together to offer You our praise and thanksgiving  
for the unfailing love You have shown toward us,  
generation after generation,  
and for the compassion You shower upon us,  
day after day.

You alone are our God. We are Your people.

We pray that Your Holy Spirit would move among us as we worship.  
Open our hearts and our minds to see You at work among us,  
encouraging, challenging, uplifting, and inspiring,  
as each one has need.  
May our worship bring honour and glory to You.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

### **Song 253**

For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3 O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,

And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of Glory passes on his way,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*William Walsham How (1823-1897)*

One thing I miss about not seeing you all on Sunday is when we do the interactive stuff.

For example, I ask you to shake the hand of someone who is not smiling

Or hug anyone who has not said hello to you this morning

This morning I want you to wave your arms in the air if you are sitting next to a saint.

Now what I hope would happen is that a sea of arms would arise - like a Mexican wave as we all acknowledged what a saint really is.

But maybe you are a child of the 60s and this remains in your mind



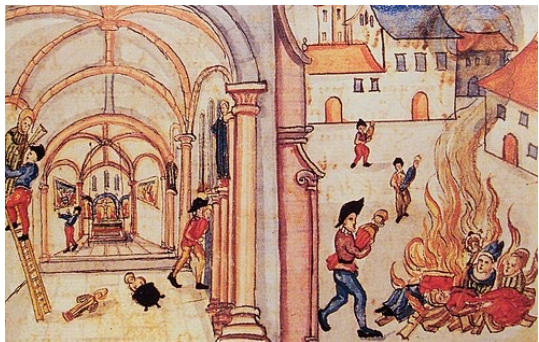
If you do....well....we are not off to a very good start!

Today we are doing something that we don't often do in the Salvation Army – we are reflecting upon the significance of the 1<sup>st</sup> November in the Christian Calendar – All Saints day.

Certainly if we lived in Catholic parts of Europe this would be a very significant day – I remember in the years I worked in the Polish factory this was a holiday – all Saints day was a day when the factory closed – no matter when it fell in the week.

Polish families would travel across the country to go to the graves of the loved one – cleaning the stones, laying flowers, and lighting candles and remembering the saints. I read yesterday an announcement from the Polish Prime minister who announced cemeteries and graveyards will close this weekend. The report continued that millions of Poles usually visit the graves of their loved ones, often travelling hundreds of kilometres to their home towns. “We do not want to cause increased risk as a result of large groups of people gathering in cemeteries, on public transport,”

There has not been too much attention paid to this day within the Protestant tradition – a little bit afraid perhaps of the connection with named saints, with statues and the adoration of saints. Indeed at the time of the reformation and the DE catholicisation of the church - statues of saints were destroyed or mutilated – this iconoclasm was to take the focus from symbols to focus on Jesus – It is no surprise in a church like ours where we veered towards a minimalist approach –with just the flag and the crest – the idea of celebrating saints seemed a bit strange.



But I want to look again and ask if we got this wrong and whether there is something important that we are missing?

But first what is a saint?

## Song 39

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of Glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Hail thee as the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the clouds of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and Heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Centre of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Blossoming meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest.  
Thou the Father, Christ our brother -  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father-love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother-love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.  
*Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)*

John introduces One life to live

One life to live, O may I live for thee!  
Give me your Spirit, and I shall be free.  
Free from desire my own way to pursue,  
Free to obey your will my whole life through.

I live within a world full of confusion,  
Where happiness is nothing but illusion.  
Attractions that deceive, In what can I believe?  
I'm tossed about by every wind that blows.

2. I'll live when I receive your Holy Spirit,  
The promised gift you said I should inherit.  
You planned it from the start, I give to you my  
heart,  
And now my spirit really can be free.

Gwen Redhead

## PRAY FOR HOPE AND JOY TO BE RESTORED

Pray for all those in your community and around the world who are feeling down and who are struggling to process the situation that the world finds itself in.

Think of a person or household who may be particularly struggling at this time. Take time to send them an encouraging message by phone or email.



Think of reasons to be thankful! For many of us, there are plenty of reasons around if we take time to find them, from family and friends to technology.

Consider the life of a plant. From a tiny seed, plants can grow into strong organisms bearing leaves, flowers and life-sustaining fruit. While we may not see quick signs of progress, we can be sure of the constant progress of the hope of new life. To remind yourself of this daily, if you can you may wish to plant a seed. Each time you see the pot or patch of soil where you plant it, remember that the green shoots may not be far away.

## **Verses from Hebrews 11 and Hebrews 12**

### **Faith in Action**

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death:

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,** let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



## Song 477

Thank you for saving me; what can I say?  
You are my everything, I will sing your praise.  
You shed your blood for me; what can I say?  
You took my sin and shame, a sinner called by name.

Great is the Lord.  
Great is the Lord.  
For we know your truth has set us free;  
You've set your hope in me.

2 Mercy and grace are mine, forgiven is my sin;  
Jesus, my only hope, the Saviour of the world.  
'Great is the Lord,' we cry; God, let your Kingdom come.  
Your Word has let me see, thank you for saving me.

(After second chorus)  
Thank you for saving me; what can I say?  
Martin Smith

But first what is a saint?

Well there are lots of ways of answering

On one hand it is correct to think of a saint as a very holy person – someone who is very devout and principled. You wouldn't expect a saint to swear, or be bad tempered. A saint would not gossip or push themselves to the front of a queue. Saints don't break the speed limit – or cycle on the pavement. If you were waving a few minutes ago you ought to look at the person next to you and sit on your hands.

He is not a saint – I am not a saint

And then there is another way to see a saint – someone who have been beatified by the church – again someone who has lived a good life but also through whom God has performed a miracle. Pope Francis in the last 7 years

has made over 50 saints and across the centuries there have been thousands of saints made.

But again, for most of us we are not going to be made saints – well at the moment none of us – because to be that sort of saint you have to be dead.

But I think there is another way to look at it. Are you a saint?

I read this story about a church that encouraged its congregation to do something special each week for 6 weeks. The theme for this period was Forty Days of Love

The first week they were encouraged to send cards and letters to people who had made positive contributions to their lives.

After the first service a man in the congregation wanted to speak to his minister.

The minister described the man as "kind of macho, a rugby player, a shaved head and lots of tattoos, he loved mountaineering and survival pursuits – think Bear Grylls – well Bear Grylls without a smile.

The man told his minister, "This church is great - but I'm not going to participate in this Forty Days of Love stuff.

It's OK for some people," he said, "but it's a little too sentimental and soft for me."

A week went by.

The next Sunday this man waited after church to see his minister again. "I want to apologise for what I said last Sunday," he told him, "about the Forty Days of Love. I realised on Wednesday that I was wrong."

"Wednesday?" his minister repeated. "What happened on Wednesday?" "I got one of those letters!" the man said.

The letter came as a total surprise. It was from a person the man never expected to hear from.

It touched him so deeply he now carries it around in his pocket all the time. It spoke of how the macho man had made a positive contribution to the writer's life and he thanks the macho man for it.

"Every time I read it," he said, "I get tears in my eyes."

It was a transforming moment in this man's life. Suddenly he realized he was loved by others in the church.

This changed his entire outlook. "I was so moved by that letter," he said, "I sat down and wrote ten letters myself."

Receiving that letter was a transforming experience for Mr. Macho.

It came through the post rather than from a mountain-top experience, but the effect was the same - his perspective was changed.

Writing letters is what saints do

In the verses we heard earlier Paul describes a crowd of witnesses cheering us on and encouraging us in what we are doing.

Have you been following the debate on the lack of spectators in team sports. With Covid rules in place there are so many matches played without anyone one watching. It seems to be that without the cheering of the crowd the players are finding it hard to be competitive and devote themselves to the game. The defence don't seem to be affected – but the forwards – the attacking players are motivated by the noise from the stands to the cheering to the encouragement – without it they are not really engaged.

It's the same with quiz shows and comedy shows – we realise what an impact the audience has upon the performers. Their laughter, their applause, their enthusiasm spurs on the celebrities and drives them to a better performance

– and so now the programme makers are using canned laughter and applause to create the right atmosphere.

Well not really a surprise that the bible should have been saying this 2000 years ago – the race we are in to become more like Jesus – we have people around us who are cheering us on – helping us get to the goal.

**Hayden introduces our band piece Serenity by Eric Ball which includes these words from Song 741**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.

3 For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper thy peace to my soul.

4 But Lord, 'tis for thee, for thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
O trump of the angel! O voice of the Lord!  
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

*Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)*

## Here are the first of a few interviews where we have asked several people who has helped them in their Christian journey

Song 378

Lord, I come before your throne of grace;  
I find rest in your presence and fullness of joy.  
In worship and wonder I behold your face,  
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I'.

*What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.*

2 Lord of mercy, you have heard my cry;  
Through the storm you're the beacon, my song in the night.  
In the shelter of your wings, hear my heart's reply,  
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I'.

3 Lord, all sovereign, granting peace from Heaven,  
Let me comfort those who suffer with the comfort you have given.  
I will tell of your great love for as long as I live,  
Singing, 'What a faithful God have I'.  
*Robert and Dawn Critchley*

What is fascinating about these interview is the simplicity of that was done – kind words , interest, attention, the giving of time – almost everyone agreed that this is what had kept them going – this was the cheering of the saints.

And you can see that you really do know a lot of saints – Ramsgate Salvation Army

I want us to just take some moments to think about those people who have helped you in your Christian journey – in the newsletter there is space in the sheet and it may be helpful to write down the names of those people you want to thank God for. They may have gone to glory many years ago – they may be with

you right now. Whoever they are lets pause and just say thank you to God for who they are and what they have done



Rowan Williams writes about the young Jewish writer Etty Hillesum who died in Auschwitz, He explains that when she was on her way via the transit camp in Westerbork to the train that would take her to the death camps, she scribbled a few last notes to friends. And in one of those notes she tried to explain what she believed was going on: 'Someone [she said] has to take responsibility for God in this situation. That is, someone has to behave as if God were real. Someone has to make God believable by the way that they meet life and death.' And she -- at first sight a very unlikely candidate for this dignity – attempted to do just that to make God believable by her life and her death.

Witnesses establish the truth by giving evidence. It really is as simple as that. When we celebrate the Saints, we celebrate those who have given and are giving evidence, who make God believable by how they live and how they lived

Saints are the people who recognise that arguments will finally not win the day. God does not make himself believable by argument. God does not respond to our doubts, our uncertainty, our fears by delivering a list of neat answers with which we cannot disagree

Instead he sends Jesus – in the life and death of Jesus we see what God is like – and in turn as we follow Jesus we show the world the love of God.

We are saints when people see the truth of God in us

We are saints when we give evidence to God's love.

## **Song For all the saints who've shown your love,**

For all the saints who've shown your love,  
in how they live and where they move.  
For mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Saviour's fame.  
Who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed the kingdom coming still.  
Through selfless protest, prayer and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

*(Tune O Waly, waly)*

But there is another angle I want us to look at. Almost everyone who shared spoke about the nurture they received from an early age.

We are now going to follow a meditation prepared by Sara Hargreaves entitled Generations – a meditation on Psalm 145

*(<https://engageworship.org/ideas/generations-meditation-psalm-145>)*

You may want to close your eyes as we reflect. We read in Psalm 145:

I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.

They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Let's reflect on the verse: One generation commends your works to another.

Imagine a line of people, a line of about 200 people. How long would that be? Perhaps imagine this line from your front door and imagine how far it would stretch.

You find yourself towards the end of the line.

The 200 people in front of you are the generations of Christians since Christ's death and resurrection. Right at the front are Peter, Mary Magdalene, Paul; followed by Timothy and the rest of the second-generation Christians. Right in front of you are the people who told you about Jesus, who led you to faith. Imagine the faces in this line of people, starting with Christians from the Middle East, the missionaries sent from Rome, the church planters sent to



this country, the leaders from before you were born. Each telling the next person.

One generation commends your works to another.

Imagine what each of those generations must have gone through, throughout the ages. The adventures, the suffering, the breakthroughs, the hard work. All to bring the Church to a place where you can sit watching this time of worship across the internet or on a DVD.

All bringing the thanksgiving and the prayers of your generation to Christ.

Think about the issues of your generation, the struggles in your own life.

Imagine the line of Christians in front of you, in whose footsteps you tread. Did anyone live the struggles you live through? Did anyone else face the evil that your generation faces? Have they suffered as we are suffering – lock down, maybe death of friends or family due to Covid, not being able to meet with loved one, missing grandchildren, family or friends, not being able to come and worship together.

Imagine these faithful witnesses who has clung to Christ through trouble and suffering.

See yourself in this long line of Christians, where...

...One generation commends God's works to another.

Draw strength from your unity with these witnesses. These are the servants making up the Church, which you are one with. Your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Give thanks for their faithful service to Christ.

Now, imagine casting a glance backwards, over your shoulder, in this line of generations of Christians. Think about who is following in your footsteps?

Who can you see following behind you? You might want to pray for someone who you can see in your mind's eye, that they too may stand faithfully through struggles and temptation. Or you may want to commit to God to commend him to the next generation somehow.

Let's spend some time in this image and see what God is saying to you through it, and respond to the nudges he provides.

As we bring this reflection to a close, let us pray:

Thank you for those who speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty— we will meditate on your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of your awesome works— we will proclaim your great deeds. Amen.

### **Song 393**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his Word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith*

### **Benediction**

May the beauty of God  
be reflected in your eyes,  
the love of God  
be reflected in your  
hands,  
the wisdom of God  
be reflected in your  
words,  
and the knowledge of  
God  
flow from your heart,  
that all might see,  
and seeing, believe



## BY FAITH HEBREWS 11



ABEL  
ABRAHAM  
BARAK  
DAVID  
ENOCH  
GIDEON

ISAAC  
JACOB  
JEPHTHAH  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
NOAH

PROPHETS  
RAHAB  
SAMSON  
SAMUEL  
SARAH