

CHALK FARM CORPS SUNDAY NEWSLETTER



A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory.
In his name the nations will put their hope.
Matthew 12: 20-21, NIV

Are you smouldering? As a child I used to sing the verse; 'Jesus bids us shine' which I probably learnt when attending the Methodist Sunday School. The first verse of this song reads:

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

Susan B Warner

We might think it is difficult to shine brightly for the Lord but in many ways for people of faith it is as natural as the air we breathe. If you are close to God then you will shine brightly for Him. Jesus taught on the mountainside; "*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*" (Matthew 5: 14-16, NIV).

Sometimes we might feel that we are not shining very well. Some may even feel that their light is going out! This might particularly be the case if we would normally be very busy serving the Lord in the life and witness of The Salvation Army but can't do so at the present time. It might also be the case for some that faith is wavering and God seems distant. Don't despair! Sometimes we smoulder rather than brightly burn and God uses the bruised and smouldering – Hallelujah!

In Matthew Jesus quotes the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 42: 1-4) following his knowledge of the murderous plots of the Pharisees who did not like Jesus' deeds or teaching. In fact these words mark a turning point in the Gospel according to Matthew when Jesus extends his mission to the Gentiles.

To the religious leaders both Jesus and his disciples were smouldering wicks and bruised reeds to be snuffed out and broken. Our heavenly Father has other ideas. God won't break the bruised reed or snuff out the smouldering wick. When we have faith – even a smouldering one – that is enough for God to take and bless; *'... he leads justice to victory. In*

His name the nations will put their hope.' (Matthew 12: 20-21). Jesus was the bruised reed and smouldering wick – our great Servant King. If you are smouldering today then trust God to *trim the wick* so you can again burn more brightly. Draw close to God and your shining for Him will be as natural as breathing. A song of Major Joy Webb reads:

*How bright the light is from soul to soul:
A myriad tiny flames expanding to a whole,
How strange the truth is when joined as one,
And what a miracle this shining could become;
It could transform the darkness that we know,
And clearly light the way mankind must try to go.*

*I am a candle of the Lord, with truth and love more powerful than sword!
O' fan the flame, its single gleam diffuse,
And let my spirit be the light that You can use.
I am the candle of the Lord. Light me! Light me!*

Joy Webb

God bless you,

Michael
Captain Michael J Kinnear, Commanding Officer

Last Thursday evening the Corps Prayer Meeting took place on Zoom. A current prayer listing is available by request from Captain Michael.

Time to Spare

Following a meeting with Camden Council's Community Response Team this week, Chalk Farm Corps are joining the Camden Food Network. This is a network of organisations that are providing food-related services and provision to the community. Though the initial focus is on food, this will be expanding to other areas of need to include advice, support, and provision of other items and goods.

Chalk Farm Corps now has access to the Time to Spare platform which can:

- Manage referrals that come to the council via the contact centre minimising back and forth emails and calls for referrals.
- Gain a bird's eye view of all capacity of food-related services and provision across the borough
- Access data analytics to help identify trends, gaps, and additional unmet needs of residents
- Monitoring and reporting giving the necessary data and evidence for The Salvation Army to seek additional help or funding to sustain or grow services.

Our initial service appears on the network as a shower and food hub operating on Mondays and Wednesdays and we can accept referrals sent to us or refer others on the network.

And now for a new weekly slot featuring members of our fellowship:

This is me: Robert Berry

Hi all, I'm Rob. I'm a passionate volunteer for the Salvation Army Chalk Farm, while I am on a career break from the IT sector.

I have an adult daughter, Jessica, and enjoy living in North London with the access to all the green spaces, such as Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill, Regents Park and Regents Canal. I enjoy long walks, preferably with a furry friend, and have walked the entire length of Hadrian's Wall.

I was born in South Africa and grew up in Amanzimtoti (Zulu for Sweet Water), and I attended the local schools playing in the band cumulating in me leading the band for 2 years as drum major (The guy in front with the mace). I grew up in a wonderful loving Christian home, and we attended the Coastal Assemblies of God. Our busy Christian life was all encompassing.

We moved to the UK in 1996 as my family's ancestral history is from the UK. My Grandfather worked at the Rolls Royce factory in Derby.

I have been very fortunate in that my career in Technology and building teams of people along with our interest in travel, which has taken me all over the world, from the west coasts of America through the Middle East down to Australia (where Natasha is from) and so much in between. We have also spent some time in Sri Lanka as my grandmother was born there as they were part of the British Overseas Mission in Sri Lanka.



I started volunteering after my wife, Natasha, joined the CoVid Mutual Aid group and initially volunteered at the Salvation Army Chalk Farm to assist at the homeless drop in during the first lockdown. She was serving meals and helping with the showers. I was a little behind, as I fall into an at-risk category: I am diabetic. However, Natasha encouraged me and assured me it was CoVid safe and a very worthy endeavour.

I volunteered to assist in the kitchen, with cooking meals. It was a true baptism of fire, cooking meals for up to 50 people, breakfast and lunch, Monday to Friday. But after a few weeks of hits and misses, I became highly committed, as I could see how important this service was. The exposure to how hard it was for the people coming in was really an eye-opener.

It was an exciting time when the volunteers were film celebrities, taking part through Spare Hand. After a couple of mornings together, some say Jude Law is my lookalike.

Supported by Michael and Lorraine, who are just fantastic at this, I began helping and committing not only with the cooking, but also pickup and delivery of care packs, Christmas Appeal, etc.

On came the current lockdown, and rising infection rates, which really affected the ability to continue the evening service for homeless drop in. So, we are now offering a shower booking and take away meal service during the colder months. I am humbled to be able to be a part of such an important community service, have learned so much from Michael and Lorraine during my time volunteering and have met amazing personalities along the way.



Song of the week

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden
He prayed: Not my will, but thine;
He had no tears for his own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

He took my sins and sorrows,
He made them his very own;
He bore my burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in
Glory His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of his love for me.

Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)

On the television

Sunday at 1.15pm, BBC Two
Songs of Praise: Celebrating 60 years
Aled Jones and Pam Rhodes look back.

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Romans 15: 4-6

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the radio

Sunday at 8.10am, BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship: Sarah Snyder and the Revd Julia Hedley, mark this time of Holocaust Memorial.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

God our Father,
you reveal to us your love
through Christ
and through our brothers and sisters.
Open our hearts so that we can
welcome each other
with our differences and live
in forgiveness.
Grant us to live united in one body,
so that the gift that is each person
comes to light.
May all of us together be a reflection
of the living Christ.
Amen.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland