



MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
OF

Bristol Easton Salvation Army

May

2021

Corps leadership

CO's Majors Mark and Dawn Sellers

Sgt Major – Clare Harrison

Secretary –

Treasurer – Hilary Gambling

SAY Leader – Lynsey Greenwood

YPSM – Natalie Jeffries

Discipleship Lead – Sue Alcock

Community – Rosemary Greenwood

Bandmaster – Anthony Smith

Songster Leader – Martyn Bryant

Singing Co Leader – Denise Mitchell

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BRISTOL EASTON CORPS

MISSION

Inspired by the love of God our mission is:

To provide a place of worship for all; developing, encouraging and supporting each other in realising full potential to know and serve Jesus Christ.

To be bold, adventurous and effective in telling others what Jesus Christ is doing today.

To show the love of Jesus Christ by offering support and practical help to the community of Easton and beyond.



This issue

Natural church development

How are you feeling?

How are you feeling?

This question and variations on it must be amongst the commonly asked questions in our society. We say almost without thinking. How are you? We say it quickly and almost invariably we get an equally quick response – “Oh I’m alright” – Or my personal favourite which covers all eventualities “Oh fair to middlin” Which I had always assumed was a northern phrase but having heard it in other parts of the country may be universal. The thing about this question is that we say it out of politeness. It has almost become a form of greeting rather than a genuine inquiry. It’s entirely possible that we may even get a little bit impatient if someone actually goes on tell us exactly how they are feeling. But just at the moment it is actually a very important question because there are lots of issues which are affecting us all which are giving rise to lots of “feelings”.

How do you feel about the easing of the pandemic restrictions? How do you feel about returning to what we used to call normal life? Cont.....

How do you feel about the impact the virus has had on our world? Dawn and I along with others at our corps have been asking those same questions in relation to our corps. How collectively are we feeling about our corps family? I suspect there would be a variety of answers and it would take a lot of conversations to properly gauge opinion. However, over the coming months we will engage in those conversations with you. Asking not just how are we feeling but also question as to where we are as a corps fellowship. Where we were as a church a year ago, where we are now and where we want to be going forward.

To help us do this we will carry out a Natural Church Development (known as NCD) survey. We carried out an NCD survey 10 years ago and now would be a very good time to repeat the exercise. NCD is a way of assessing the health of a church across eight key areas of church life. The survey is simply a tool which provides information. What we do with the information we get will be up to us. Our online meetings will give some teaching in coming weeks on six of the eight characteristics. We will aim to carry out the survey shortly after we return to in person worship in June. Cont.....

Prayers

Joyce Selfe and family after the Promotion to Glory of Bram

The Malachi project and all those who work to alleviate homelessness

Brownies – That new leadership can be found to ensure the continuation of our Brownie pack.

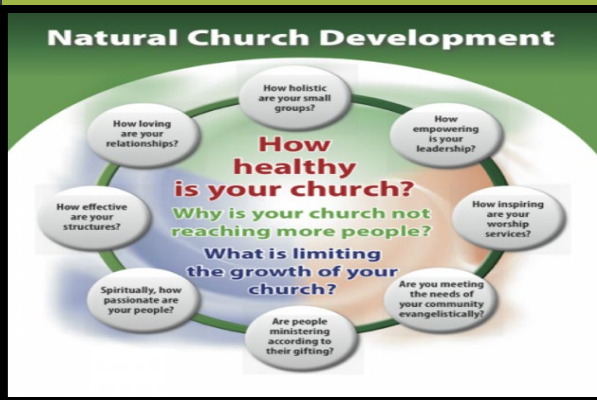
For our corps fellowship that God will guide us in his mission.

India, Brazil and those countries who face a large and overwhelming second wave

Reading for the month

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3 vs 1-8



Added to the NCD survey we will form a working group to assess the results of the survey and examine the way forward. The Salvation Army calls this process a mission journal.

There are always dangers with introspective examinations. We tend to mourn for how things have changed. We get frustrated with how things are. And we doubt how successful we might be in the future. Whilst we need to be honest with ourselves, we also need to be optimistic. After all this is Gods' mission we are engaged in. We will highlight not only where we are getting things wrong but celebrate what is good and sustaining about our corps family and its mission. And we will look to you all to not only be onlookers but participants in the journey. We need you to be a part of the conversation and the future mission of the corps. So, when we ask how are we feeling as a group of Gods people, let's not give a quick answer or a shrug. Let's really say what we think and feel.

Food hub

This project has now wound down as demand has decreased across the United Kingdom territory. Hilary has been crunching the numbers and has calculated that we supplied 85,258 items of food during the 11 months that the project ran. A remarkable effort and an example of the dedication and commitment that our corps is capable of. Once again a huge thankyou to all involved.

Retirement

It seems a curious thing but Dawn and I seem destined, and indeed fortunate to have followed Majors Steven and Hilary Naylor into two different appointments. We say fortunate because we know how faithful and committed they are as God's servants, and the fruit of their loving leadership and ministry has been clear to see.

They are hanging up their preaching boots – at least officially – at the end of June and we wanted to give you the opportunity to contribute to their retirement celebrations. If you have any memories or words of encouragement for them as they retire could you please send them to Mrs S Priday, who is the Corps Secretary at their current appointment at Hull Icehouse corps.

You can contact her either by email or traditional mail

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Bram Selfe

It is with sadness that we have to announce the promotion to glory of Bram Selfe on the 27th April. Bram was a much-loved part of our fellowship and will be hugely missed. Please remember Joyce and the family in your prayers as Bram's passing came unexpectedly and suddenly. Funeral details are as yet not finalised.