

# CHALK FARM CORPS SUNDAY NEWSLETTER



## Here we raise our Ebenezer

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."  
(1 Samuel 7: 12 NIV)

Today we can raise our 'Ebenezer'. Like the Israelites we can stop in remembrance and say: "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

Chalk Farm Corps can testify to the Lord's loving kindness and faithfulness throughout generations and so give God the glory for victories won and the fulfilment of God's mission over the past 141 years. We should also trust the LORD for our future days.

In its history Chalk Farm Corps faced hard times and its battles. When first 'opening fire' in Camden, our forebears suffered persecution and riots; later the Corps endured two world wars and experienced seismic cultural shifts in society. Most recently we have gone through national lockdowns in response to the worldwide pandemic which has arguably changed the way we live - but God never changes! (Malachi 3: 6). His faithfulness endures through all generations (Psalm 100: 5). Great is His faithfulness unto us (Lamentations 3: 22-23).

Like Samuel we can say; 'Thus far, the LORD has helped us.' (1 Samuel 7: 12). And as the old chorus proclaims; He is able to save and able to keep. In Jeremiah 29: 11 we find a promise; "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. So be encouraged.

At our Corps anniversary reunion one of our newest attendees, Ebenezer, placed a stone at our Mercy Seat as we recalled the actions of Samuel who acknowledged the faithfulness of God. In this simple act we also affirmed our trust in God for future days.

In our own personal life too it is appropriate to stop and remember the times God has moved; provided; guided; shown his mercy and abounding grace. May we grasp afresh the promise that God plans to give you hope and a future. So let's raise our Ebenezer trusting in the One who holds it.

*Major Michael J Kinnear*  
*Commanding Officer*

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.

*Robert Robinson (1735-90)*  
*(SASB 830)*



## Chalk Farm Corps 141st & Chalk Farm Band 140th Anniversary Reunion

Over 100 people gathered to celebrate the joint Corps and Band anniversaries in October. Guests included the Deputy Mayor of Camden, Councillor Nazma Rahman, Councillor Kemi Atolagbe (Haverstock Ward), former Corps Officers, and many 'Farmers' past and present.

The day began with morning worship, with prayers led by Commissioners Carl and Gudrun Lydholm. Peter Knightly and Eleanor Caddy shared their testimonies of life at Chalk Farm.

The afternoon celebration concert featured highlights from the Corps' history and its more recent work during the pandemic. The reunion Songster brigade shared two items, *Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit* and *By His Hand*.

Contributions from the reunion band included marches *Deeds of Valour* and *Mighty to Save*, and meditation *Hold Thou my Hand*. Two soloists, Jonathan Evans on Euphonium and Ken Loukes on cornet, performed *Song of the Brother* and *Pater Noster* respectively.



Watch recordings of both meetings on YouTube, thanks to Max Rogers:

- Morning meeting: <https://bit.ly/ChalkFarm140>
- Afternoon festival: <https://bit.ly/ChalkFarm141>

# Chalk Farm Corps Band: 140 years

Chalk Farm Band has always been at the forefront of Salvation Army banding. As early as 1898, just sixteen years after its formation, it was featured as the solo band for a Salvation Army international congress. The venue was London's Crystal Palace and the band was led by a youthful A W Punchard.

This achievement proved to be a prelude to far greater accomplishments. During the next fifty years Bandmaster Punchard led the band in many pioneering developments that influenced the growth of Salvation Army bands worldwide.

During the 1930s, the band's progress became a model to be emulated by music sections throughout the world, no doubt as a result of extensive touring of Scandinavia and Central Europe. Punchard was also regarded as the model bandmaster and was appointed national bandmaster in 1922, a position he held until his promotion to glory in 1950.

Innovative ventures were being undertaken at home. The first of many gramophone recordings was made in 1912, for Pathe Frere, and the band's first radio broadcast was transmitted in 1924. Formal recognition of the band's consistently high standard of service came in 1934 when it was received by King George V at Buckingham Palace, London.

Bandmaster Punchard's eventual retirement in 1944 coincided with the gradual return of many of the band's servicemen from World War II. The rebuilding task passed to Frank Rawbone who greatly enhanced the technical skill and tonal qualities of the band. This enabled a tour of Sweden to be undertaken in 1948, the first extensive post war overseas campaign by a Salvation Army band.

Progress continued in subsequent years and under the baton of Stuart Parker, a further European Tour was undertaken in 1961.

## Chalk Farm Band on tour

1902 Scotland  
1903 South West England  
1905 Netherlands  
1907 Netherlands & Germany  
1909 Ireland  
1911 Midlands, Yorkshire  
& Eastern Counties  
1913 West England  
& South Wales  
1920 Denmark & Sweden  
1924 Northern England  
& Scotland  
1927 Switzerland & Germany  
1930 Norway & Sweden  
1934 Denmark, Sweden  
& Finland  
1936 Czechoslovakia, Austria  
& Central Europe  
1948 Sweden  
1961 France & Switzerland  
1967 Europe including  
Italy & Vatican City  
1969 North Wales  
1981 Switzerland  
1985 Isle of Man  
1985 Germany  
1986 Spain  
1988 Australia  
1989 Northern Ireland  
1991 Sweden  
1996 Netherlands & Germany  
1997 Denmark  
1997 Switzerland  
1998 Georgia  
2000 Japan  
2003 Norway  
2005 Finland & Estonia  
2007 South West England  
2009 Northern Ireland



Michael Clack assumed the leadership in 1963 and directed the band for most of the succeeding years until his retirement in 2001. The band continued to travel extensively in the UK and beyond, developing ever more innovative methods of ministry.

During the historic four-country tour of Europe in 1967, the band visited Rome for the first time. An invitation was accepted to play before Pope Paul VI at the Vatican - at the time a highly controversial decision.



It was a very different Germany that received the band in October 1985 than on the occasion fifty years earlier when Nazi salutes and Swastika flags accompanied the band on its way through Essen, Hamburg and Berlin.

In 1986, the band accepted an invitation from the Spain and Portugal Command to assist in its first ever congress. In spite of much local opposition, the band was privileged to hold an open-air service and march of witness in the Plaza Mayor, Madrid.

1988 saw the band undertake its first tour outside Europe when it visited Australia. Less than 24 hours after landing, the band played its first festival in Adelaide, later travelling to Tasmania, Melbourne, Canberra, Wollongong, Newcastle and Sydney.

In 1998 the band accepted an invitation from the Russian Command Headquarters in Moscow to travel to Tbilisi, Georgia, just five years after the Salvation Army's work recommenced in the former Soviet Union following the collapse of Communism.

Two years later, the band's pioneering spirit saw it travelling again, this time to Japan to participate in the Midosuji Parade in Osaka. Despite encountering an earthquake on its first day in Japan, the band was not to be deterred and played to enthusiastic crowds, including over 1 million people on the streets of Osaka.

Jonathan Evans became bandmaster in 2001, and the band continued to travel. On a 2005 tour in Estonia, the band was once again involved in pioneering work, assisting with the opening of a new corps at Tartu on the Estonia/Russia border. Family commitments took Jonathan away from Chalk Farm, and Michael Clack again took up the baton before the appointment of Richard Brown, who continues to lead today.

For many years the band appeared annually on TV show Blue Peter. It has also made a number of appearances on Songs of Praise and on BBC Radio shows such as Gloria Hunniford and Owen Spencer-Thomas's Sounding Brass and Listen to the Band.

In recent times the small ensemble band has been supported by Regent Brass, who use the corps building as a rehearsal base. Though small in number, 140 years on Chalk Farm Band continues to contribute to worship and witness, giving glory of God.



# Peter Knightley: My Testimony

I'm Peter Knightley and I've been asked to give my testimony this morning. Most will know me, but for those who don't I thought I should start from the beginning.

I'm a mere second generation salvationist. My mother and father both being converts at Chalk Farm Corps in their teens. My father was born in Chalk Farm Road but the growing family moved to a small terraced house in a side street soon after.

In a fashion somewhat similar to John Lennon climbing the fence to play with children from the Salvation Army children's home at Strawberry Field, my father and his two brothers climbed the brick wall of their yard to arrive at the entrance of the Chalk Farm citadel. They soon joined the scouts and then learned to play in the junior band. They were all to become life long salvationists. My mother was introduced to the Army by a close school friend whose father was a member of Alfred Punchard's band.

Incidentally, I'm a volunteer at Strawberry Field. The Army are doing a fantastic job there for the local community. Please catch me in the interval if you want to know more about its work.

My parents were married in uniform at the army against the wishes of both sets of parents in 1936. I didn't arrive until May 1943, the month that we sent the dam busters to Germany to try to expedite the end of the war. My father was by then with the 8th army in north Africa, then to Italy and to Palestine. I was three when he was demobbed and I saw him for the first time. My mother and I lived with her aunt and cousins in Hampstead. After my father returned we bought a house in Islington but continued to attend Chalk Farm Corps, travelling in during the week and on Sundays on the underground.

I learned to play, taught by my Uncle Alf who was band leader, and joined a very active junior band. I was also involved in youth clubs and corps cadets, so always at the Army! Corps cadets was an excellent training ground for teenagers, and I felt that I benefited from that significantly.

When I was 14 I attended my first music school at Tylney Hall. As they still are today these events were so important to salvationist youngsters in their development as Christians, salvationists and musicians. I went for another year as a junior band member then two more years after joining the senior band.

It was while attending one year that I decided that I should make a serious commitment to my growing faith and take a stand as a Christian and a salvationist in all I did at home, at work and at leisure. I keep that faith today and never shrink from witnessing to that fact by my behaviour and the words I speak. I missed the next year of music school as I went on my first overseas tour with the band, and I only got two weeks holiday back then. This was to France and Switzerland.

I had only been as far as the Isle of Wight before, so it was a great adventure as well as a wonderful experience. A couple of years later I was invited to become a sergeant at music school. I readily accepted this and did this for four years. This involved pastoral and

general care of students in my allocated dormitories. It also included holding evening prayers and keeping things calm after lights out!

This all came to an end when I got married as in those days only single men were invited to the music school. Pam and I were married in full army uniform by the then current general, General Fred Coutes, a great privilege.

We had been married for only six months when I was off on the next band tour, this time adding Italy to the countries visited. There we were invited to march across St Mark's Square in the Vatican and then play to the Pope in the Bethlehem chapel. I could go on for ever about band tours, but not here and now.

I have two children and four grandchildren. Unfortunately none remain as salvationists. However my children have benefited from their Army upbringing by teaching their children what is right and what is not, so making them all fit for what lies ahead. Two have graduated from university, the other two have two years left until they follow suit.

I moved to Liverpool just over four years ago to be near my daughter and her family. I have joined a very active corps and play and sing in the band and songsters. I have been very well received in the corps and my experience with the Chalk Farm sections has been called upon regularly.

in fact, despite being the oldest member of the band, I have been appointed assistant band secretary, so that my knowledge and experience gained here can be used to assist in furthering the kingdom in Liverpool Walton.

In closing i want to return to my music school days. We had this favourite chorus – “Christ is the answer”. I expect many of you know it. Don't worry, I won't sing it to you. The words are:

Christ is the answer to my every need;  
Christ is the answer, he is my friend indeed.  
Problems of life my spirit may assail,  
With Christ my saviour  
I need never fail,  
For Christ is the answer to my need.

We had a special way of singing it. The hall was divided into three. The first group would sing “Christ is the answer” and hold the last note. The second group would do the same and then the same again by the third group. The pause would then be ended and all would sing the final three words “to my need”.

And that's my testimony this morning - God bless you all.

# Eleanor Caddy: My Testimony

Major Michael has asked me to say a little bit about our drop-in sessions here at Chalk Farm.

These run twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday evenings. We open up the cafe for anyone who is vulnerably housed or experiencing homelessness to come for dinner.

It's a chance to sit down and have a cup of tea, watch the one show, take a shower, pick up fresh underwear or a much needed sleeping bag, or get some advice about other local services.

The drop-in has such a friendly relaxed atmosphere. Yes we have some ground rules, but by and large everyone sticks to these without a grumble.

The guests and the volunteers who come are great. The hardest part is when someone stops coming each week - not knowing if they're ok. If the reason they're not there is because life has gotten better, or because it's gotten worse.

I volunteer on a Wednesday, and it's a part of my week I would really miss if I wasn't there.

The drop-in is run by members of the corps here and volunteers from the local community and a couple of other local churches we partner with.

Over the years we've also worked with advice services, local businesses, a dental hygienist, and a hairdresser. So many people have been so generous with their time to create something really special.

And I've seen God at work in many people's lives. Those aren't my stories to tell.

But volunteering at the drop-in has also changed my life. It introduced me to the man who is now my husband which is one thing!

It's opened my eyes to what God is doing in the lives of some of those most vulnerable in our society. It's also helped me to see how we as a society often fail those people.

It has connected me to the long the tradition of social action within the Salvation Army.

And it's something I pray that will long continue.

So when you think of Chalk Farm I ask that you will pray for God's blessing on all the people who come through these doors. That God gives us the strength, the resources and the love to continue the work here.



Soldier Maureen Gray watches the Queen's funeral procession alongside the chief secretary, Lt. Col. Paul Main, and secretary for communications, Lt. Col. Dean Pallant.

The Salvation Army provided mobile canteen units and pastoral care to those lining the route.



Eva Rose & Major Michael with this year's harvest display.

The harvest altar service raised a total of £845.98. 75% of these monies go directly to our work here at Chalk Farm and 25% to special 'mission' initiatives in North London.

Thank you also to those who gave food, clothing and other items which are being used in our work with the homeless community.

Soldier Lilian Shillingford proudly holds her 'learning in lockdown' award recognising her talent for arts and crafts.



1,250 school children from across the borough will come through our doors later this month for the Junior Citizenship Scheme. They will hear from a range of community organisations and authorities, including the Salvation Army.





We are delighted that Cadet Ana Layton will be joining us each Wednesday evening assisting with the homeless drop-in.

Ana will also be at Chalk Farm for her 1st year preaching placement in the New Year. We look forward to getting to know Ana over the coming months and wish her well in her studies at William Booth College.

Our Community Terrace Garden was replanted following the completion of building works on our adjoining buildings.

Thanks go to those who donated funds, the coordinator Major James Williams and his helpers for such a beautiful display of flowers.



Kendrick Chin and Eleanor Caddy sign the register after getting married at Chalk Farm Corps in September.

Eleanor and Kendrick would like to thank everyone who helped with the ceremony, music, hall cleaning, catering and gardening - you are all wonderful!

**I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

**Ephesians 3: 17-19**



# Dates for your diary

**Sunday 13th November, 10.30am**

Remembrance Sunday Service

**Sunday 27th November, 10.30am**

Toy Service for the Christmas Present  
Appeal & 1st Sunday of Advent

**Wednesday 7th December, 8.00pm**

Christmas with the Salvation Army at the  
Royal Albert Hall.

Order your tickets from the Royal Albert  
Hall website [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com) or  
call the box office 020 7589 8121.

**Sunday 25th December, 12.30pm**

Christmas Day meal followed by worship  
at 2.00pm and the televised King's  
Christmas message at 3.00pm.

**Sunday 1st January, 11am**

New Years Day Service

## Contact us

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