

September /October 2024

Tidings



Woking

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

FROM THE C.O'S DESK

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It has been a fantastic summer with lots to celebrate...

You have put on Wonder Zone Holiday Club, where 24 children from our community engaged in fun and silliness as well as Bible discovery, prayer and worship, and 4 children gave their lives to Jesus. What an answer to prayer, and a lot of hard work from a gifted, passionate team! It's an absolute pleasure to watch you at work.

You have generously fundraised and sent 4 teens to summer camp, where they had a wonderful time, and come home full of passion and calling to see God at work in young people in Woking and in our corps. We are looking forward to taking a group of teenagers kyaking on 14th September, as well as building our youth group with the growing number of teens who are joining us regularly for Sunday worship. We're glad you are here!

We also celebrate your generosity in Gift Sunday, where you gave over £3800 for God's work here, and for the hours collecting outside Waitrose, where £500 was donated by the general public. Thank you.

The band brought celebration to the Lakeview community fun day, such a beautiful opportunity to connect with our neighbours and make new friends.

We celebrated the life of Derrick Curtis, promoted to glory, and miss his humour, cakes and presence.

We enjoyed watching the worship group grow, and celebrate having Cherry join too.

We celebrated each other's company and excellent food despite the torrential downpours at the BBQ, and



know that we missed a cracking cream tea!

I wonder for you what you are celebrating as we head towards the autumn season change?

We have pushed the Futureshape launch to the beginning of October where we will be exploring our new corps strategy together.

Thank you so much for all the work you have put in to reflecting, listening and discerning what God is speaking into our life together as we have been on this visioning journey. There is so much encouragement to be found in reading through the reports of our conversations over the past few months, and the corps council (leadership team) is looking forward to sharing with you the conclusions that have been developed out of the data collected in the process. We're keen to celebrate our strengths and invest in the identified growth areas so that Woking Salvation Army can keep loving God, loving our neighbours and loving each other in the years to come.

We see the toddler group returning

after the summer's break and the start of Brunch Club on Wednesdays 10am-12 (from 4th Sept), as well as our ongoing craft club and coffee morning, music practices, Bible studies and prayer groups and other opportunities to connect together through the week.

Coming up look out for Autumn Adventure, our harvest themed family Sunday on 15th September (like Brunch at Bethlehem and Eggsperience Easter). This will be followed by Family Focus Sunday (22nd Sept) to help new families connect with what our Sunday worship more usually looks like.

Family Focus Sundays are also taking place on the first Sunday in October and November.

Brunch at Bethlehem will be 1st December, with family carol service on 8th December.

As we look forward into the next season let us 'keep our eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed.' (Hebrews 12:2)



*Belated congratulation to
Audrey and Maurice
who celebrated their
67th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 24 August*

The Wonder Zone - Holiday Club 2024



As you entered the Wonder Zone the first thing you saw was a black cloth map, about 5ft x 5ft of the night sky with the stars and planets in full array. Over the five days the children would, through science, technology, interaction with each other, singing, scripture and the faith of the leadership team, discover the wonder of God as their creator and the creator of the exciting world they live in.

This was an intergenerational holiday club with the welcome team of Kip and Louise coming from the senior end of the generations right down to one year old Isaac R! There was just such a buzz about the place even from day one and it only got better as the week went on!

There was a toddler zone with plenty of toys for any very young children of the leaders, which Mike Coleman and Chris Todd did a wonderful job of leading. A sensory prayer tent was set

up with a variety of different activities (Lego, books, drawing, painting, sand...) to give children the opportunity to have some space and quiet, but still engage with the main ideas and themes of the week.

With Vanessa as the lead there was no doubt who was in the leadership team as they all wore bright yellow t-shirts. Five fantastic young leaders helped in different ways across the week: assisting group leaders, taking photos and videos, 1:1 with children who needed extra support, and running the multimedia desk. And there they were – Xander the mad professor and professor Netty too, both dressed in white lab coats, often complete with hair styles to match the day's activities (pink candy floss hair, rocket hair...).

When the children arrived each day, they had a welcome activity to do in



their groups - the robot masks on day 5 were a particular hit! This was followed by a time of exploring the science and Bible story of the day with the Professors, along with watching the highlights video of the day before, singing a couple of songs, and doing a Space Race warm-up dance. They then went back to their groups to engage with the Bible story and an interactive prayer activity. This was followed by snack time – a colourful platter of fruit and breadsticks, and on some days there was cake too! Next was time for the children to do their own experiment, craft and take part in a game. On one day they played human Hungry Hippos using skateboards, washing-up bowls and lots and lots of balls! Each session was ended back with the Professors for the highly-anticipated explosion of the day, memory verse, song, and they said the grace altogether with actions too. The memory verse for the week was: “I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvellous! Of this I have no doubt.” Psalm 139:4.



At the end of the final session, the children enjoyed eating candy floss together and watching it being made using a candy floss machine that one of the young leaders and her mum had very kindly brought in! This provided a beautiful opportunity for the team to engage with the families of the children and was a very special end to a wonderful week!

Some favourite moments from the Leadership Team:

The growing confidence of many of the children as the week went along.

Chocolate brownies, cupcakes and pastries!!

Experiments & explosions with the mad scientists!

Parachute laughter. The young leaders were fab.

Teamwork – pre planning and spontaneity.

Interest shown by parents. Jamie & Elliott getting soaked in water play

Unity and joy. Netty’s pink hair.

Throughout the week a prayer chain had been in place covering the two hours each morning when The Wonder Zone was in progress. Each child was given a card telling them they had been

prayed for and would be prayed for as they are precious to God and precious to us.

The whole aim of The Wonder Zone was to lead children to Jesus. Xander had been so definite when he described his own experience, how he had found Jesus as his Saviour when

he was five-year-old when attending a holiday club. The best news of the week was that four children made their own decision to follow Jesus! **Now that's a result!!!**

*Naomi Rothery &
Freda Benneyworth*

The Wonder Zone - Family Focus Worship

Family Focus worship was the natural follow on to The Wonder Zone holiday club and we were joined by some of the children who had attended TWZ – this time accompanied by their parents. It was different from our usual time together on a Sunday with quite a bit of wandering around by little people coming to church for the first time, but so great that the parents had the courage to accept the invitation to attend. The first Sunday of the month is always more informal, the band and songsters do not participate and the dress code is more relaxed a ‘dress down’ Sunday.!

We started with a song from TWZ – ‘My best friend is the creator of the universe’ – quite a few of the adults may not have known it but the children certainly did! The children spoke of their favourite things from

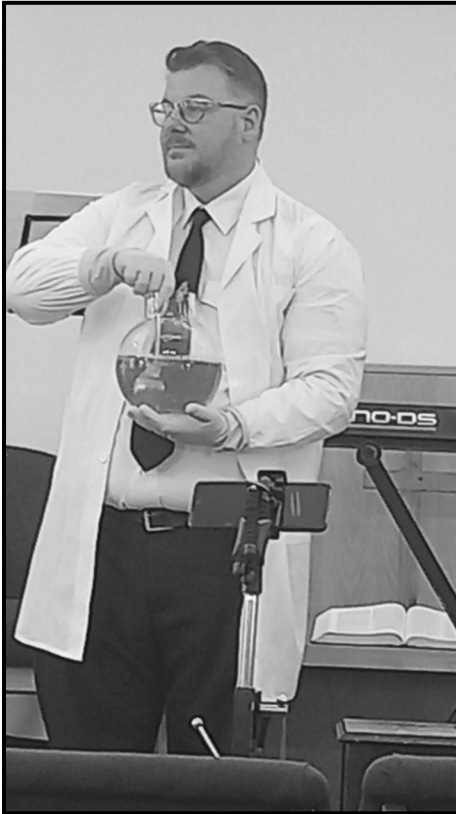
the time they’d shared together – Smelly Gerry the tortoise, elephant toothpaste – the fire – ‘hanging out with Dave (Todd),’ the Skittles, as in sweets, prayer time!

We shared the Bible verse the children had learned by memory over the week.

I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvellous! Of this I have no doubt.

Psalm 139:4

The children gathered round Vanessa as through the Godly Play method she told them the story of Abraham and the way God was with him through every circumstance, every new direction his and Sarah’s life took. Whenever there is Godly Play there is a rapt and reverent silence in the room from both children and



adults alike as the story and teaching unfolds.

At one point our ‘mad Professor’

from TWZ– in his white lab coat endeavoured to teach a particular truth by doing an experiment - which failed – spectacularly but Xander coped brilliantly and with good humour and grace!!!

After the children had left for Tots’ Church & Kids’ Church Xander concentrated on the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son. Obviously many have heard the parable preached on – probably often but it was totally appropriate on this occasion when there were people worshipping with us for the first time.

Xander referred back to the significance of a holiday club in his own life – because someone told him the Gospel story when he was five years old and at a holiday club he found the Lord – it was life transforming and led to where and what he is today.

Our worship concluded with an arrangement of Amazing Grace and was followed by a very noisy and fun

UNI – here we come!!!

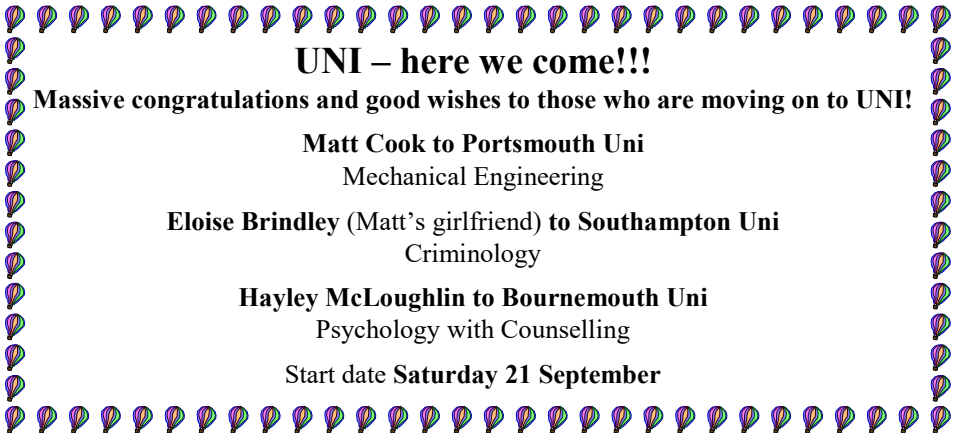
Massive congratulations and good wishes to those who are moving on to UNI!

Matt Cook to Portsmouth Uni
Mechanical Engineering

Eloise Brindley (Matt’s girlfriend) to Southampton Uni
Criminology

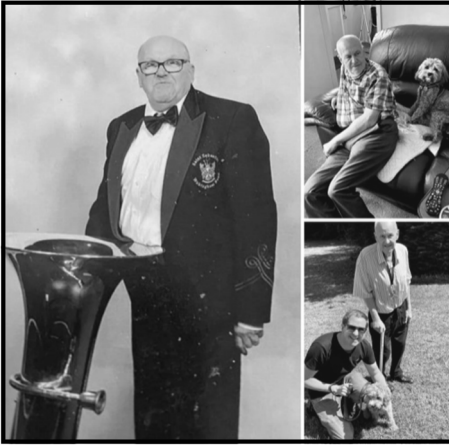
Hayley McLoughlin to Bournemouth Uni
Psychology with Counselling

Start date **Saturday 21 September**



Derrick Curtis

23 June 1946 – 7 July 2024



As the small group who gathers for pre-meeting prayer met on Sunday 7 July, Major John expressed his concern as he had spoken with Derrick the precious evening and confirmed that he would pick him for the meeting next morning as he usually did. In the event there was no response from Derrick when he called, so a call was made to the care home that Lesley, Derrick's wife lives in, and they agreed to make contact with Drew, Derrick's son. After the meeting, as we were having coffee Major John spoke with Xander and it was announced that Derrick had been Promoted to Glory during the night. The shock and sadness was palpable, Major John prayed for Derrick's family as we gave thanks for Derrick's life and witness.

Derrick was at the meeting on Sunday 23 June and was in his usual seat in the band. The meeting ended and the band played its closing tune. Af-

ter which Xander announced that there was a double birthday that day, his son Gideon and Derrick, who was 78. Everyone duly sang 'Happy Birthday to you' and the live-streaming ended with three cheers for Gideon and Derrick!!!

At Woking Crematorium on Tuesday 6 August Derrick's son Drew and his husband Steven, shared in a quiet and measured hope filled service of committal - led by Captain Vanessa - along with many of Derrick's friends. Inevitably there was the sound of a brass band as we entered and as we left for the Thanksgiving Service that was held at the hall.

A composite band from the three bands Derrick played with, Almac Bisley Band, St Sebastian's Band, and Woking Corps Band provided a programme of beautiful music that was to prove both comforting and challenging. Also present, and playing top cornet was Bandmaster James Haigh, representing the Guildford Fellowship Band.

There was wit and humour, a respectful informality about the occasion and above all so much love for this chatty man with a big smile.

Pete Stickland gave an insight into the young Derrick before the band played Nicely Saved which would have been the first march Derrick played in public – playing euphonium when he was young. Along with some good songs to sing there was an 'open mic' so that people could give

their own thanks for the way Derrick had touched their lives.

Yoma who by chance met up with Derrick at an appointment with a physio and from then a link was there. Jess spoke of how when she moved to St John's they would very often get on the same bus. He could moan for England but he was always grateful for what he had. Jess also spoke for her daughter Lilia, just seven, of how important it was to stand beside Derrick's bass and to find she was the same height!

Maurice, Derrick's long time 'Band Buddy' who had been at a band event in Reading only a few weeks back spoke movingly of their friendship and on the analysis they would make of the techniques of the different bands and their critique of the

quality of their playing

Agatha spoke of how because Derrick was standing at the bus stop one Sunday; her aunt had recognised the Army crest on his tie and spoke to him. That conversation resulted in Agatha, a salvationist from Zimbabwe attending and joining the Corps. Ethan, her 16 year-old son had joined her from Zimbabwe earlier this year and being a bass player sat between Derrick and Dave C.

James, the bandmaster from Guildford Corps, leads a once a month fellowship band with no heavy commitment - just turn up and play, spoke of how Derrick was most loyal and made every effort to be there despite his health issues and getting a lift when he wasn't able to drive. He thanked God for Derrick's loyalty to his instrument and the band but more so to his faith.

The bands played, 'Joshua', 'Guardian of my Soul', 'Light of the World', and 'Tango - Where I love to be'.

So many personal and heart-warming memories, such a feeling of love and affection. This truly was an amazing Thanksgiving Service for a man some would say was a very ordinary man but oh the lives he touched.



Derrick with Agatha

Majors Freda Benneyworth & John Martin



Huge Congratulations and good wishes to

Dave & Gwen

Who celebrate their

Diamond Wedding Anniversary - 60 years

On Monday 2 September 2024

Getting to know Mike & Annette Coleman

Great to have Xander's parents with us over the Summer - particularly at The Wonder Zone but we didn't really have a chance to get to know them. They've graciously answered some questions for us - so sit back and get to know Xander's Mum & Dad!



**How long have you been officers?
Where did you train?**

Mike began his adult life in the hospitality industry and has tertiary qualifications in management for that industry.

Annette graduated from the University of Wales with a BSc in Physics and Polymer Science to begin a short career in hospital work.

We both separately felt the calling to officership whilst in the midst of getting ready to migrate to Australia. We were in our late twenties we went to the Officer Training College

in Melbourne in 1984, being commissioned in 1986. We served as active officers for 36 years before retiring in 2022.

Without a doubt, Salvation Army officership has brought us a richness of life which we would not have experienced in any other field of endeavour. We have lived and worked in Southeast Asia, Europe, and many parts of Australia and experienced lots of different cultures. We have met people from all walks of life and can feel at home in the presence of prime ministers and presidents, and with homeless persons and addicts.

Where did you serve?

Our first appointment was as corps officers in Western Australia, which we began just weeks before the birth of our third, fourth, and fifth sons, triplets, one of whom is Xander.

Raising five boys whilst maintaining busy appointments was extremely challenging and we're sure we didn't always get the balance of good parenting and good officership.

We have been involved in corps officership, social program work (most notably alcohol and other drugs rehabilitation), divisional leadership (Melbourne Central Division), state wide social programs leadership (Victoria State Social Command), and national leadership (Taiwan). Our last appointment was as CO's of Winton Bournemouth Corps in the UK.

At every level we have tried to influence The Salvation Army towards good quality leadership and better management practice. Mike is a Fellow of the Institute of Managers and Leaders and has worked to support and develop emerging managers and leaders within The Salvation Army and in the community broadly.

What did you find the most fulfilment in?

Our greatest thrill is leading people to Jesus and seeing lives changed. This has been most rewarding In our various roles in the alcohol and other drugs field. It has been a privilege to see lives dramatically changed through good quality program and caring and compassionate spiritual engagement - both together. It turns out Jesus really is the answer but can only be understood and accepted in the context of respectful and professional care and compassion. The Army's role is to present him in a respectful and relevant ways.

What are you doing in retirement?

In retirement we have sought to con-

tribute to society and to be actively engaged in the life of our local corps (Morley). Mike is the Deputy Chair of the board of the Western Australia Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (the peak body of drug agencies in Western Australia). He is also the Volunteer Coordinator at Morley Salvos, responsible for the recruitment, on-boarding, and care of a growing team of volunteers. Annette has been involved in setting up the new Corps Cafe and playground, and is now assisting in women's ministries. We have done other bits and pieces on an ad hoc basis, such as presenting at conferences and workshops, relief chaplaincy work, and chairing the local Red Shield Appeal.

Our family commitments have us supporting five adult children and their families, 12 grandchildren, and ageing parents.

We are currently re-assessing our various activities and commitments. On return to Australia, we will be moving forward with some new projects, and signing off on some that are nearing completion. Always our life goals remain the same; serving others and leading people to Jesus.

STOP PRESS..... STOP PRESSSTOP PRESS!!!!

**Delighted to announce we now have a Corps Sergeant Major!
Our much-loved Amanda was commissioned in our worship on
Sunday 25 August**

Amanda has the support and love of the Corps family as she assumes these responsibilities and what lies ahead.

Incidentally, Amanda is the first female CSM in the Corps'

Jo & Andrew's BBQ

'Oh my, didn't it rain – Biblical proportions as they say, it was absolutely hilarious and of course 'someone' struck up 'Showers of blessings' – well you just had to didn't you?!!!

'Hope it's alright for the barbie' was said by so many in the build up to the annual Corps BBQ hosted by Jo & Andrew in their beautiful garden. It had spotted with rain early on and there had been a heavy shower as we left the hall but it was 'going to clear up' wasn't it?!!!!

The catering team this year was augmented by Vickie and Margaret both volunteers and it was the dream team. Vickie certainly makes a wonderful cucumber & feta salad and the halloumi with honey and chilli flake was to die for!

Attendees ranged from Isaac at just about a year old to Gill, number 1 on the Corps Roll and ** old! So they arrived, some carrying their own chairs, to find the back garden festooned with huge gazebos and vast umbrellas. Great to see the Uni and pre-Uni gang there. Jemma- fresh



from obtaining a First in Journalism, Rachel going into Year 2 and Matt soon to be off to Uni. Eliose, Matt's significant other, Sam, Isaac C, Asher, Gideon and Elliott certainly brought the average age of those present down by a chunk!!!

Food was amazing – cooked by Andrew with David his dad as his sous chef, side kick – quite a noted duo. So we sat and chatted – got up to get something to return and find someone in our seat by the time we got back but with the change of seat we chatted to someone else.

And then the rain came – in bucket loads!!!!!! Freda and Gwen got soaked through doing the strawberries and cream – both in the end looking as though they had some older woman's complaint. The rain eased and finally stopped, the sun came out as people started to make their move to go home.

We are indebted to Jo & Andrew for a beautiful afternoon – a chance to chat with old friends and make new friends – to catch up on how people



are and how life is treating them instead of being busy before and after worship on a Sunday. £250.00 was raised for Corps funds and all through eating excellent food, chatting with friends, laughing a lot and sitting in the rain. Brilliant.

Thank you – from Jo & Andrew

Well that's a wrap! From sunshine to thunder and biblical rain we had it all, and survived! Thank you to all who attended. Great afternoon, much fun! Annual church bbq is now over

for another year.

There were a few missing due to illness, holidays and general life, we missed you! Our team of helpers were absolutely amazing! Thank you.

Derrick Curtis we missed you but we know you're having great time up there, celebrating! I'm sure the weather is easier to deal with than down here today!

(The news of Derrick's sudden Promotion to Glory had sadly reached us during our after-meeting coffee)

Fund-raising Car Wash

My scribblings for the car wash – Roger Hardwick

On the Sunday of the car wash I was on Tea/coffee duty following the



meeting. By the time we had finished washing cups etc. and I had changed out of uniform, the car wash was already underway. Before I got to the car wash area I was delayed at the Emergency vehicle. First to help empty a large container of water which had a hole in the bottom. The next task was to get the gas water heaters going. This was not a quick fix but eventually we got them going.

When I did get to the car wash area, three chaps were working hard on Louise Stickland's little blue car. I don't know how long they spent cleaning this car, but it couldn't have been any cleaner when it came out of the showroom. In contrast, the last car to wash was Andy Stickland's car. Twice the size of the little blue car but it only took us half the time to wash.





We had obviously developed our car washing skills as the afternoon went on.

Part way through we stopped for drinks and bacon rolls. The bacon was cooked just to my liking, but then we did have a Major chef *on duty.

I don't normally enjoy washing my own car but with a group of friends and raising money to send our youngster to summer camp I had a great time

(* Major John)

Band ministry in Lakeview

The Band occupied the opening spot - the 'warm up act' as it were at the

Lakeview Community Fun Day

on Saturday 13 July

Held outside the Lakeview Community Centre

the Fun Day was organised by the

Lakeview Community Action Group

The Band played for about 45 minute – great to hear them as people arrived and brilliant ministry in our local community.



Worship at Woking

The last few weeks in the Corps have been busy with different fund-raising events, a BBQ, a cream tea, car wash, Quiz Night, holidays and the excitement of having several new families worshipping with us. We've had exam results, holiday club, degree successes, the anticipation of celebrations in the weeks ahead and the sadness of suddenly losing Derrick. Week by week we have met together for worship which has been varied, challenging, restorative, quiet and reflective, joyous and filled with fun and laughter.

In a series we studied the Gifts of the Spirit found in Ephesians 4 :11 – 13 'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service so the body of Christ may be built up' and where did we fit into all of that

Week by week the music ministry of the band, songsters and Penny our pianist bless us abundantly and we are grateful for the time spent in

practice/rehearsal to produce the music that touches our soul.

We are blessed by those who are promoted by the Spirit to pray spontaneously or to share their testimony. Above all there are occasions when the Mercy Seat is used.

Major Ted covered worship when Xander and Vanessa were away on holiday. After the rousing singing of 'Would you know why I love Jesus' Amanda, using 'All to Jesus I surrender' led the opening prayers and later after we had joined together in a video presentation of the chorus 'I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart', with suitable actions, Amanda 'played' charades with the children! Caroline offered to act out the words on the cards and she is one impressive actress! The children loved it and each card contained a scripture verse to back up and encourage.

Xander had passed a message that Ethan and Isacc, who with Rachel & Sharon had been to 'Encounter' the Divisional Summer Camp wanted to give their testimony. Isacc spoke first of how much he had enjoyed the experience and thanked everyone for making it possible for them to attend. Proceeds from the Quiz Night and the Car Wash had gone towards their expenses. Ethan spoke of the amazing and deep spiritual impact his time at Encounter had meant to him. These were deeply moving moments as we listened to





Ethan describe his experience and the vision he has for the future of the Corps – we were truly privileged to be present that morning and many were visibly moved by Ethan’s words.

Major Ted spoke of the occasion when Christ wept for the people of Jerusalem as he made his triumphal entry into the city and when he wept for his friend Lazarus and Martha and Mary who had experienced the loss of their brother, He spoke of Jesus’s identification with our everyday experiences, how he walks with us during the painful and difficult times of life. Our worship concluded with the triumphant words of ‘In Christ Alone’. Yet another unique time spent together in worship!

(Ethans’s testimony will be printed in this issue.)

What’s up?

From a piece by Lt. Col. Bert Menary

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, that is ‘UP’. It’s easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of a list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting why does the topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election? And why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, we warm UP the leftovers, and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP the old car. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP. To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost ¼ of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don’t give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. One could go on and on, but I’ll wrap UP, for now my time is UP so.....it is time to shut UP on the use of UP.

(Bert is a retired Salvation Army officer who lives with his wife Bronwen in Southport – both are in their mid 90s!)

Dave & Gwen's Cream Tea

And now, the end is near
And so we face the final Cream Tea
..... and they did it their way!!

Sunday morning 5.45am and time for Gwen to be out of bed to bake the scones for the annual Cream Tea that she and Dave have hosted in their back garden for many years.

A few years back the gazebos were up due to the rain – this year it was because of the intense heat that was forecast. So, people began to arrive, some carrying their own chairs, some deciding whether they would risk the steps and make for the lawn or stay on the patio. Elliott had a wonderful time with the pond and roaming around Dave & Gwen's spacious and

Two Cox's and a Major!

beautiful garden

Yes, we gathered together, some unable to come due to illness – nasty throat going around.

Homemade scones – homemade jam and homemade cakes, plenty of cold drinks and fantastic coffee for the coffee lovers - doesn't get much better!

During the afternoon we found that this was to be the last Cream Tea that Dave and Gwen would host. Started as a fund raiser for corps funds it has provided a yearly opportunity to raise money but to get together in the most pleasant of situations hosted by a – fabulous baker and an equally fabulous gardener. Incidentally this year they raised £170.00.

So, grateful thanks to Dave and Gwen for your generous hospitality and all the hard work, for the money you have raised but most especially for the fun times we've shared together over the years.



Encounter Summer School 2024

Ethan - Kunashe Ethan Mushati

(Those of us who were present at worship on Sunday 11 August were privileged to hear Ethan's testimony which he had expressly asked to share. His testimony needs a wider audience as it were and is printed with his permission and also for some who found it hard to hear Ethan on the day. Ethan was 17 on Tuesday 20 August)

Before arriving at Encounter Summer School, I had mixed emotions. I was excited for a week away from home, eager to connect with other young people my age who shared my faith. Yet, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous - the unknown can be daunting! But as I arrived at Moorlands College, the warm and welcoming atmosphere immediately put me at ease. Seeing so many others united by our common bond in Christ reassured me that I was exactly where I was meant to be. Little did I know, this was just the beginning of an incredible journey... As I reflect on that moment, I'm reminded of Philippians 4:6-7, which says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This verse resonated with me as I stepped into the unknown, surrounded by unfamiliar faces. But as I surrendered my nerves and worries to God,

I experienced His peace that surpassed my understanding. In that moment, I knew I was exactly where He wanted me to be, surrounded by His people, and ready to encounter Him in new and powerful ways.

Encounter Experiences

During the age-based life group meetings, one session that particularly resonated with me was when we explored the remarkable connections between Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. We saw how God sovereignly intertwined their lives, using their unexpected pregnancies and faithfulness to fulfill His plan. Mary, carrying Jesus, and Elizabeth, carrying John the Baptist, supported each other, recognizing God's work. Zechariah's journey from doubt to faithfulness added depth to the narrative. This trio's story showcases God's grace, sovereignty, and redemption, ultimately pointing to Jesus. This theme of God's redemptive power was further emphasized during a powerful worship service. As we sang 'What a Beautiful Name' and 'All My Life You Have Been Faithful', I saw young people committing their lives to Jesus for the first time, while others found reassurance in His love. It was a testament to God's faithfulness and grace. Major David's creative illustration using blocks of wood and sanding paper also left a lasting impact. He showed us that just as the blocks were imperfect, we

too are imperfect. But when we surrender to Jesus, He takes us in our brokenness and 'sands out' our imperfections, making us new creations. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This verse reminds me that in Christ, I am made new. My imperfections and shortcomings are being constantly transformed by His love and grace. This truth has given me hope and encouragement, knowing that I am a work in progress, but complete in Him.

Personal Growth

During Encounter, I embarked on a musical adventure – learning to play the bass guitar. Let's just say my initial attempts were more 'noise' than 'music'. I was convinced I'd never master it, and my brain treated the chords like complex math equations – aka, gibberish! But, with the patient guidance of my teacher (who deserves a medal for his saint-like calm), I partially tamed the beast and learned to play 'I'm Blinded by Your Grace'. It was a small victory, but a victory nonetheless! As I struggled to make sense of the chords, I remembered Philippians 4:13, "For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse became my rallying cry, reminding me that my abilities and talents come not from myself, but from God's empowerment.

Through this experience, I discovered that:

I'm not as musically gifted as I thought (no surprise there!).

With the right teacher and mindset, even the most tone-deaf person (me) can learn something new.

Perseverance and laughter can turn frustration into fun.

However, I then saw that brass music is far beyond better, it is playable and for the rest of the music played I stuck to my tuba. This journey taught me to approach challenges with humility, humour, and a willingness to learn – valuable lessons that extend far beyond the realm of music.

As I sang the chorus, 'Oh precious is the flow that makes me white as snow, no other fount I know, I am washed×2, I am drenched in love', I was struck by the depth of God's love and grace. The 'flow' represents the cleansing power of Jesus' blood, making me pure and spotless. The phrase 'white as snow' symbolizes the complete forgiveness and redemption I've received through Him. The repetition of 'I am washed' reinforces the assurance of my salvation, while 'I am drenched in love' reminds me of God's overwhelming affection and acceptance. These words have become a personal reminder of my identity in Christ and the transformative power of His love.

A Vision for Working Salvation Army

As I reflected on the Encounter experience, my heart was filled with a deep longing to see our Corps at Working Salvation Army thrive. I envision a community where music and worship are woven into the fabric of our gatherings, bringing joy and con-

nection to all who participate. Establishing a permanent worship band could be a beautiful step towards this vision, creating a space for creative expression and heartfelt praise. The camp experience has left an indelible mark on my heart, and I'm confident it has done the same for the other three individuals from Woking who attended. As I ponder the potential for a youth movement in our Corps,

I'm reminded of Psalm 100:3, "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." This verse resonates deeply with me, as it highlights the tender care and guidance of our loving God. I believe the camp has ignited a spark within us to see the establishment of a vibrant youth movement in our Corps - a space where young people can experience this same tender care and guidance. I envision a community where youth can gather, share, and grow in their faith, surrounded by supportive peers and mentors. The fact that two non-Salvationist young people from Winton were drawn to their local youth fellowship and then attended the camp after just a few weeks of involvement only fuels my

passion to see this vision become a reality. I'm excited to explore ways to connect with the young people in our area, providing a 'spark' that can ignite their passion and faith.

In conclusion, my Encounter Summer School experience was a transformative journey of spiritual growth, personal discovery, and renewed passion for my faith. Through the inspiring teachings, powerful worship, and meaningful connections, I encountered God in new and profound ways. I was reminded of His peace, grace, and redemptive power, and I was challenged to trust in His strength and guidance. As I return to my Corps at Woking Salvation Army, I am filled with a vision to see our community thrive, with a vibrant youth movement and a culture of worship and creativity. I am excited to share the spark that was ignited within me with others, and I am confident that God will continue to work in and through me to bring about His purposes. May I remain surrendered to His will, empowered by His Spirit, and inspired by His love.

By Ethan - Woking SA youth



Jemma Christie

*Congratulations to Jemma on obtaining
a
First Class Honours Degree in
Media Journalism
at the conclusion of her studies at
Manchester Metropolitan University.*





FLOWER LIST

September

- 1 Dave and Gwen Cox
- 8 Margaret Cook
- 15 Gill Gregory
- 22 Jan Reed
- 29 TBA

October

- 6 Jane and Andrew Stickland
- 13 Ricky Terry
- 20 Denise Allison
- 27 TBA

A living sacrifice!

We got there! Our call to worship was the final verses of Psalm 119 – the longest chapter in the Bible and over several months we had worked our way through its entirety week by week.

We welcomed Mike and Annette Coleman – Xander’s parents on holiday from Australia.

Our scripture for the morning was Romans 12:1- 8 – presenting our bodies as a loving sacrifice but what do the words Peace, Effervescence and Worthy have in common? They were the titles of the contributions from the band and songsters – ‘Peace’ - peaceful and reflective as a prelude to our worship, ‘Worthy’ – gloriously full of praise and ‘Effervescence’ from the band which included the tune associated with the song ‘Come with happy faces’!

Only John could manage to start the music for our offering with a few gentle bars of Waltzing Matilda leading into Kumbaya before returning to Waltzing Matilda - with smiles all round!

‘How do we feel about our bodies?’ was the question posed by Vanessa. Oh my goodness me!! After a brief description of some of the more quirky aspects of our bodies we turned to Jewish teaching about the body but most especially Paul’s teaching contained in Romans 12.

We were given teaching on various Greek words and how they related to words we still use today and reminded of the joy it gives God when we bring our bodies, not as a ritual but when we offer our bodies back to God as a willing and living sacrifice.

‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: take your every day, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work – walking around life – and place it before God as an offering.’ Romans 12:1

Along with this came a reminder that those gathered in Christ are the body of Christ, he builds us up through our different gifts and these gifts are vital to the life of the church. We find our identity vertically in Christ and horizontally in each other. Few of us present that morning will ever forget Vanessa’s vivid description of what happens when a chrysalis become a butterfly by becoming a ball of goo! The darkness of the experience, of rebirth – transformation comes because the essence of the chrysalis is still there!.

During a time of reflection there was prayer for those who had moved forward to the Mercy Seat as we sang and concluded our worship with ‘Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee’ and ‘All that I am’ followed by a stillness!

Lunch to Brunch – September 24

Way back in 1986 Woking Corps operated a successful lunch club – actually it was way before then as Eileen Barker would make meat pies from scratch as you did in those days - no Costco etc around then. It was largely intended to encourage people to stay on to the equally successful Over 60 Club, which sometime numbered just under 100 in attendance, led by Jack Ward, assisted by his wife Marjorie with a small band of three or four brass players led by Ret. B/M Tom Annetts,

The Luncheon Club was run by volunteers except for the CO/CO's wife who was expected to take a turn. Monday afternoon became shopping and preparation etc followed by an early start on a Tuesday morning so that all was in place for mid-day. The person I was paired with informed me very quickly on, possibly within a couple of weeks that she didn't like me!! Bit by bit that situation changed and we were firm friends for many years.

Then liberation day came. After discussion and consultation it was decided that we should pay someone to be the Luncheon Club Supervisor. It really was impracticable to stitch up an officer for so many hours when there were other responsibilities to be attended to. Step forward Gill Gregory who had been doing the job for years as a volunteer but was to become the Lunch Club Supervisor.

From Gill I had the privilege of being the lunch club cook at Woking S.A. First at Walton Rd taking over from Mrs. Bark-

er in 1989. At that time we had about 60 regular members and a very small kitchen! When we had to move to Horsell village hall we were still able to continue, using their equally very small kitchen! Most members came faithfully each week until our new hall on Goldsworth Park was ready! We were so thrilled with our new facilities! I retired from being the cook in September 2019 I thoroughly enjoyed being able to serve the Lord in this way with loyal helpers who never let me down!!

So, now it's **LUNCH to BRUNCH !!!!**

Over the last few years, in fact since Gill retired it has been increasingly difficult to find leadership and various plans and solutions have been tried. Now however, come **Wednesday 4th September**, a new era will begin and the **Brunch Club** will be here.

Every Wednesday morning, 10.00am – 12noon, unlimited croissants, pastries and hot drinks will be available at a cost of £3.00.

Ditch the boiled egg and soldiers, the Oat so Simple, even the Full English and come and give Brunch Club a go.



Comedy Hall

D.O.H.

(Department of Humour)

After the fall in the Garden of Eden, Adam was walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that?" Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home. "

A young man drove his scooter into a petrol station and asked the attendant for a litre of fuel and a few drops of oil. "Certainly sir," said the attendant, "would you also like me to cough into your tyres?"

A waiter brings the customer a meal with his thumb firmly clamped onto the steak. "Are you crazy?" yells the customer. "Don't bring my food with your hand all over it!" "What," answered the waiter, "you want it to fall on the floor again?"

A diner in a restaurant started to choke on a bone. Another customer rushed over and performed the Heimlich manoeuvre and the bone shot out. The first man said, "You saved my life, how can I ever repay you?" The other grinned and said, "I'll settle for one percent of what you were willing to pay while you were choking!"

You know you've had too much coffee when:-

You can type 60 words a minute with your feet.

Instant coffee takes too long.

You answer the door before people knock.

You sleep with your eyes open.

You don't wait for the water to boil anymore.

You are so wired you pick up FM radio.

Keep happy *Major Laugh*

Direct Line

The last weeks have been filled with all manner of sadness and distress. There has been the ongoing heart break in Gaza, the continuing war between Russia and Ukraine and the tensions in Lebanon. Then one Monday three little girls lost their lives in a most stupid act of violence followed on by the civil unrest caused by those who compounded the families' grief at losing their daughters.

Not making head line news but this last week I read of 50 Christians who were massacred in southern Nigeria in a dispute with local herdsmen militia.

Climate change disasters in fires sweeping through so many communities but the amazing news that a friend's son was safe and his home untouched by the fires that raged around.

BUT amidst all that would pull us down there was The Wonder Zone holiday club!!! We had a prayer chain of 19 people who had agreed to cover a 10 minute slot each of the five mornings that TWZ took place. Of course there were many more beside that 19 who were praying but life circumstances etc prevented them being part of the chain running each morning. We were able to pray for the 25 children who attended, along with the 19 strong Leadership Team and the 7 Young Leaders all by name. You'll read it else where in Tidings but the fact that four children made their own decision to follow Jesus was just such a wonderfully joyful and positive way to finish the week.

Many thanks for the on-going prayer support that is given to so many by word of mouth, email, WhatsApp and through Direct Line. If we don't know we can't pray so please keep us updated.

Blessings *Freda*

Quiz evening - Gill Gregory

We arrived to find the hall set up with tables for six with question sheets on various subjects, each team chose a name. There was a big tray of snacks which was very welcome and drinks, hot or cold were provided as we needed them!

At the end of each table was a designated person to ensure there was no cheating!

Our quiz master was Major John, suitably attired in a sparkly waistcoat and a bow tie!

Things moved very swiftly, we didn't have much time to get our brains into gear before we had to move on to the next subject, it was all such good fun however and we did manage to get some points!

It was good to see some of our weekday volunteers with us, in fact they

were the winners by a small margin. Others who had come with them, who had been invited, hopefully enjoyed the evening as well.

A team building round was included to make a stand-alone structure using marshmallows and spaghetti sticks, it had to be strong enough to stand alone, this was not easy and caused much laughter! I'm sure that everyone who came would agree that it was a very enjoyable evening which raised money for our young people who are going to summer camp this year. Well done everyone!!





*Warmest
congratulations to*

**Mr & Mrs Stebbings –
Rebecca & Connor**

*Celebrating their marriage on
Friday 28 June 2024*

Warmest congratulations and best wishes to

Jo and Andrew

Who celebrate their

***Pearl Wedding Anniversary - 30
years***

on Tuesday 1st October 2024

Eric Allison - change of address

After a long period of hospitalisation, rehabilitation care and a short while
back home please note

Eric's move into permanent care.

Eric Allison

Room 35, Bluebell House Nursing home,
126 Barkham Road, Wokingham.RG41 2 RP



The Reverse Prayer of St Francis!

Dear Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke.

Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.

Where there is silence, may I be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action,
grant disruption.

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked,
grant me the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked...

When tradition speaks louder than need...

Grant that I may seek rather to do justice
than to talk about it.

Disturb us, O Lord, to be with,
as well as for, the alienated;
to love the unlovable, as well as the lovely.

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

*Found as a prayer for Saturday 29 June
in the Prayer Matters section of The Salvationist
of that week*

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

e- mail benworthyf@btinternet.com

or e-mail: peterfstickland@gmail.com

Please note

**The cut off date for the next issue
of “Tidings” is**

Sunday October 13th 2024

Our Mission Statement

Our fellowship exists to:-

Reach out in love and
respect to all in our
community

Encourage people to connect
to Jesus and one another.

Grow mature followers of
Jesus.