



# Weekly News from Blackpool Salvation Army

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Our Vision: Fullness of  
life for *all* with Jesus**

## Sunday:

9.50am: Prayer meeting @ Raikes Parade

10.30am: Worship & Bible Teaching for all ages

11.15am: Lighthouse Crew @ Raikes Parade

## Monday:

10am: Shining Stars Baby & Toddler group @ Raikes Parade

5pm: Kids Community Choir @ Raikes Parade

6pm: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides @ Raikes Parade

## Tuesday:

Employment Plus sessions @ Raikes Parade *By appointment only*

Community Wardrobe: *By appointment only @ Raikes Parade*

1-3pm: Midweekers - A warm welcome with games, papers and friendship @ Dorset St

## Wednesday:

Employment Plus sessions @ Raikes Parade *By appointment only*

4.30-6.30pm: Youth Club @ Dorset Street

## Thursday:

10-12noon: Coffee and chat @ Raikes Parade

12-1pm: Friendship club hot lunch @ Raikes Parade *Please book in advance with Jacqui Wild*

2-3pm: Friendship club @ Raikes Parade

The Bridge Project @ Blackpool Citadel is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the homeless hub drop in 9-11am and then hot meals from 12.00-2.00pm

## Our Mission:

To *share* the good news

To *serve* others without discrimination

To *nurture* disciples of Jesus

To *care* for creation

To *seek* justice and reconciliation



## Sunday Worship and Bible Teaching

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and we are joining with Salvationists across the UK in exploring the theme of 'Everlasting Light'. This Advent, we will pause to remember that the Light of the World has come. Over two thousand years ago, light broke through the humble cracks of a stable and began to illuminate the entire world. Though darkness still lingers in many forms, we hold on to the hope that the Light will come again. As we journey through this season, let's open our eyes to the ways light triumphs over darkness. This Sunday our Bible passage is Isaiah 9.1-7 and the meeting will be led by Captains John and Naomi Clifton.

We hope that you can join us at the Citadel at 10.30am. Unfortunately we are unable to livestream our meeting this Sunday but encourage you to join the worship on Salvationist Radio if you cannot be with us in person.



## Please pray for:

- Andrew Gorst's step-father, Alan, who has been admitted to hospital
- Jacqui Wild and Liz England who have asked us to pray as they are struggling with poor health at the moment
- Members of the Citadel and Fellowship band as they are busy carolling throughout the week
- That God will provide all that we need to provide these gifts in the weeks to come - these are our highest numbers ever

### Funeral of Norman Warnes

The funeral of Norman Warnes will take place on Monday 2nd December at 10:45am at Lytham Crematorium. This will be followed by refreshments at Fylde Rugby Club, Blackpool Road, FY8 4EL. Sarah has asked, that if you are able to join family and friends at the rugby club you let her know, so she can advise the caterers in relation to numbers. Please continue to pray for Sarah, Ken and William.

### Visit to Strawberry Fields

A group of corps members recently enjoyed a wonderful visit to Strawberry Fields. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Elaine Taylor, shares that visiting Strawberry Field was an inspiring experience, steeped in the history of The Salvation Army. From listening to the heartfelt recollections of a former resident of the Children's Home to exploring how the site has transformed into a modern training facility supporting young people and adults into education and employment, every moment was captivating. The sight of the original red gates nestled in the beautiful gardens and the joy of sharing afternoon tea with a wonderful group of people added a special touch to the day. Thanks to Merle and Ian Hegarty for arranging this special day.



### Christmas Fair

What an incredible time we had on Saturday at our Christmas Fair! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event so special. From the mouth-watering treats at the cake stall to the fantastic range of stalls, there was truly something for everyone. The Kids Community delighted us with their beautiful singing, and the Santa's Grotto brought so much joy to all who visited. We were delighted to raise £1145.92 which will go to support different aspects of mission here at Blackpool Salvation Army, including the Community Wardrobe and Christmas Present Appeal. A particular thank you goes to Christine Atkins and Gill Sherlock for all their hard work in coordinating this fantastic festive event.



### Messy Christmas

Following the Christmas Fair, we had a fantastic time at Messy Church, exploring the meaning of Advent through creativity, messy play, and worship. We made crackers, advent wreaths, advent candle collages, cards and much more, before sharing in a celebration of the joy of Christmas and a thoughtful story about the journeys that people made to welcome Jesus at the first Christmas. Together, we discovered that Advent is a season of counting down to welcome the light that shines in the darkness—a powerful reminder of God's unchanging love given to us in Jesus at Christmas.



**BLACKPOOL SALVATION ARMY**  
**CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 22nd December, 10.30am**  
 The Salvation Army, Raikes Parade, FY1 4EL  
 For more information, please contact 01253 626114 /  
 blackpool@salvationarmy.org.uk





## Needed - Collectors for Carolling

During the Advent Season the Band will be in the Town Centre playing carols and raising funds for the Corps on Saturdays. If you are able and willing to help collect for one hour, please let Tina Meredith know when you are available. The dates we need collectors are 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> December, 11-1pm - Town Centre. Thank you for your support!

## Christmas Present Appeal Update

Over the past week numbers of referrals for our Christmas Present Appeal have dramatically increased to over 2400 referrals for our Christmas Present appeal and we know there are others yet to come in. Please pray that God will provide all that we need to provide these gifts in the weeks to come - these are our highest numbers ever. Please also take a poster away to display to encourage others to donate to the appeal, as well as sharing posts about the appeal on your social media.

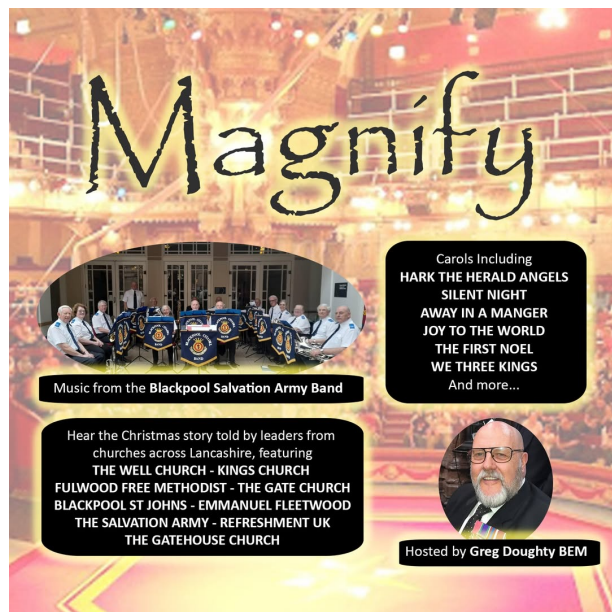
## Christmas Present Appeal - Volunteers Needed

We always value the support of corps members who help to sort incoming gifts, select gifts, pack sweet bags, check codes, and much more. This will be taking place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and on weekdays from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. If you can help, please contact our volunteer coordinator Elaine Taylor.



## Toy Service

Our Toy Service will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December and will be an important moment in our Christmas Present Appeal. New and unwrapped presents will be gratefully received but we'd also encourage you to make your toy a cash donation towards the cost of vouchers for teenagers receiving gifts this year. Special envelopes are available in the foyer to put your monetary gift in - please include your name on the envelope if you gift aid your donations so we can make it go even further.



## Magnify Carol Concert at the Tower Circus

Magnify promises to be a memorable night at the Blackpool Tower Circus, featuring ten carols led by Blackpool Salvation Army Band and nine readings from leaders across local churches. Supported by Blackpool Council, this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share the joy of Christmas! Tickets cost £5 and can be bought online at

<https://www.refreshment.org.uk/event-details/magnify-carols-at-blackpool-tower>

## 'A Blackpool Christmas Carol - The Spirit of Christmas'

This year's Christmas concert, themed *A Christmas Carol with The Salvation Army*, was a meaningful celebration inspired by the insights of Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future in Dickens' Christmas Carol. The programme reflected on Blackpool Salvation Army's past, present, and future. It honoured The Salvation Army's 140 years of service in the community of Blackpool, showcased the ongoing work of The Bridge Project and our Christmas Present, and looked to the future, with our Jeremiah Homes initiative. These stories were accompanied by wonderful performances from the children in the choir of Poulton St Chad's Church of England Primary School and beautiful songs from our very own vocal soloist Liana Jones. Blackpool Circus School joined our Blackpool Citadel Band for a unique performance of 'The Carollers'. As always, the band was at the heart of the evening, delivering uplifting festive pieces and leading the congregation in joyful carol singing. Together we raised over £2000 for the Bridge Project's work with people experiencing homelessness. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our musicians, as well as the volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make the evening run so smoothly. Photos to follow next week!

## News from the Bridge project

Over the last fortnight we have seen an incredible transformation as one of our clients has painted one of the 1:1 meeting rooms in the Bridge project. This room will now be known as 'The Sea Room' and, along with 'The Sunshine Room', this makes a much more calming and positive space for clients to meet with the team for support work conversations. Thank you to our Support Worker, Poppy, for leading this project and to the Donation Centre for providing the new furniture.

In the week ahead, we have an optician coming on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December to do eye tests for clients and give them free prescription glasses. We will also be inviting clients to sign up to attend our Christmas party on 18<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas day dinner.

Please pray for people attending the Bridge project who are sleeping rough during the harsh winter weather, especially that opportunities will arise to move into accommodation.



# CHRISTMAS DAY — CAROLS — WITH THE SALVATION ARMY BAND

11am Victoria Street, Blackpool  
(outside Marks & Spencer)  
or if the weather is poor, join us at the Salvation  
Army Citadel on Raikes Parade at 11am



## Christmas Workshop

At The Bridge  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
13:30 pm till 15:00pm  
Please give Poppy your name if you are interested

Including:  
Christmas card making  
Decoration station



### Dates for the diary:

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am: Toy Service  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am: Carol Service  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am: Covenant Day  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am: "Together as  
Blackpool Salvation in 2025"

### Contact details:

General enquiries: [blackpool@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:blackpool@salvationarmy.org.uk) / 01253 626114

Corps Officers (church leaders):

Capt. Dr John Clifton - [john.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:john.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk) / 07921 578589

Capt. Naomi Clifton - [naomi.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:naomi.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk) / 07823 442959

Corps Sergeant Major:

Major Ged Nicoll - [gerald.nicoll@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:gerald.nicoll@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Community Centre Manager:

Allan Murray - [allan.murray@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:allan.murray@salvationarmy.org.uk) / 01253 626114

Volunteer Development Coordinator:

Elaine Taylor - [elaine.d.taylor@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:elaine.d.taylor@salvationarmy.org.uk) / 01253 626114 / 07831 150643

### Where to find us:

Blackpool Citadel, Raikes Parade, FY1 4EL

Blackpool South, Dorset St, FY4 3BB

