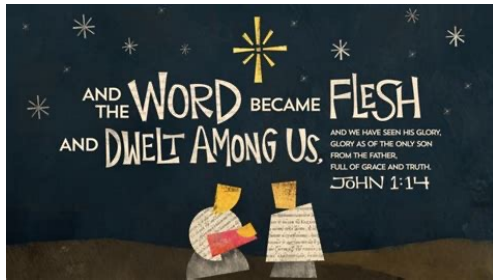




# Weekly News from Blackpool Salvation Army

## Sunday 8<sup>th</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:

5pm: Kids Community Choir @ Raikes Parade  
6pm: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides District Carol Service @ Raikes Parade

#### Tuesday:

Employment Plus sessions @ Raikes Parade *By appointment only*

#### 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  
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



#### Toy Service

On this second Sunday of Advent we will be thinking about being 'Witnesses to the Light' and focussing on the words of John 1.1-14. Today is also our Toy Service and we will be joined by the Kids' Community Choir as we take some time to focus on the Christmas Present Appeal supporting local families. So far we have received we have received over 2,500 referrals for children who would otherwise have little or nothing on Christmas day. Today as part of our worship we bring our gifts, whether of new toys or donations in the gift envelope provided and trust that God will provide all that we need to meet this great need.



#### Please pray for:

- Jacqui Wild who is waiting for an important operation in the coming weeks
- Liz England and others in our corps family who are particularly unwell at this time
- For the team working to distribute the gifts through our Christmas Present Appeal
- That we would be able to build relationships with some of the families receiving the gifts

# '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 Appeal, 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.





## 'Shining Stars' Baby & Toddler Group Party

This Monday our 'Shining Stars' baby and toddler group enjoyed a wonderful party to celebrate Christmas. Father Christmas came to visit and then stayed for our telling of the Nativity story through nursery rhymes.



This was our last 'Shining Stars' before Christmas and we look forward to seeing families again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## Carolling

The Carolling season is well underway and last Saturday bands played in both Sainsburys and the town centre, raising £841.65 towards the corps work. The band were joined by Obi-Wan Kenobi who took up his lightsaber to lead the band in playing 'Jingle Bells' and the video has since reached galactic levels of fame with more than 35,000 views on facebook! If you're able to help with collecting in the coming weeks please speak to Tina Meredith.



## Christmas Greetings Window

As you pass the bistro you will see our Christmas Greetings window. This is an opportunity to display a Christmas card to everyone here at the Salvation Army and donate the money you might have otherwise spent on Christmas cards to the corps'. Please give any donations for this to Tina Meredith, Allan Murray or Captains John & Naomi Clifton

## Christmas cards

If you have written Christmas cards for others in the corps, feel free to place these in the alphabetised containers in the corridor - and make sure you collect any that are addressed to you! We will do our best to ask friends to deliver cards for people who cannot collect their own but if you want to guarantee a card gets to someone who won't be at the Citadel before Christmas please put a stamp on the envelope and give it to Tina and she'll add the address and pop it in the letterbox. Thanks!

## Carols at Crocus Court

Thanks to Wyn and Alan Bennett for organising a lovely evening of carols with your neighbours at Crocus Court last weekend and to the band members who were able to support on this occasion.



**Magnify**

Carols Including  
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS  
SILENT NIGHT  
AWAY IN A MANGER  
JOY TO THE WORLD  
THE FIRST NOEL  
WE THREE KINGS  
And more...

Music from the Blackpool Salvation Army Band

Hear the Christmas story told by leaders from churches across Lancashire, featuring  
THE WELL CHURCH - KINGS CHURCH  
FULWOOD FREE METHODIST - THE GATE CHURCH  
BLACKPOOL ST JOHNS - EMMANUEL FLEETWOOD  
THE SALVATION ARMY - REFRESHMENT UK  
THE GATEHOUSE CHURCH

Hosted by Greg Doughty BEM

## 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>

Speak to Steve Simpson for more information.

## Salvation Army Christmas Tree

A huge thank you to two of our youngest volunteers for their amazing effort in decorating the Blackpool Salvation Army Christmas Tree for this year's Christmas Tree Festival at St Christopher with St Nicholas Church!



You can see their work at the Christmas Tree festival this weekend, 7th December: 11am - 4pm & 8th December: 11:30am - 4pm.

## Gift Services

This week Captain Naomi has been privileged to lead Gift Services in four local schools - Carleton St Hilda's, St John's in Poulton, St Michael's on the Wyre and Lytham Hall Park. It's been wonderful to see the generosity of families gifts for our appeal, as well as to use a fun game about Candy Canes to share the Nativity story. And thanks to the Fellowship Band for joining at Hall Park for the children to sing carols with you!



# 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



## Territorial Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm the Territorial Carol Concert at the Royal Albert Hall will be premiered on YouTube. This features celebrity readers and music from The International Staff Band, and International Staff Songsters. It's a wonderful showcase of Salvation Army music and ministry. You can find this at

<https://www.youtube.com/@salvationarmyvideo>

## Dates for the diary:

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am: Carol Service

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December: Online Meeting

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am: Covenant Day

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30am: "Together as Blackpool Salvation Army in 2025"

## Christmas Day Open Air

On Christmas Day we will be holding a Christmas Morning outdoor carol service in the town centre. The band will be leading us in carols as we celebrate the good news that Jesus Christ came into our world! There will be no meeting at the Citadel unless the weather is too poor to be outside. Feel free to bring a folding chair if this will help you to join us for the morning!



# 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

## Online Meeting for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

There will be no Sunday worship in person at the Citadel on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December but an online worship will be prepared for you to join from wherever you are between Christmas and New Year. You may want to arrange to gather with a number of friends from the corps to watch this together. We will share the links for this on our facebook page and through the corps newsletter email mailing list nearer the time.

## Contact details:

General enquiries: blackpool@salvationarmy.org.uk / 01253 626114

### Corps Officers (church leaders):

Capt. Dr John Clifton - john.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk / 07921 578589

Capt. Naomi Clifton - naomi.clifton@salvationarmy.org.uk / 07823 442959

### Corps Sergeant Major:

Major Ged Nicoll - gerald.nicoll@salvationarmy.org.uk

### Community Centre Manager:

Allan Murray - allan.murray@salvationarmy.org.uk / 01253 626114

### Volunteer Development Coordinator:

Elaine Taylor - 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

