



# Ramsgate Salvation Army


15 December 2024

Love God  
Love Others

A warm welcome as we gather as the family of God today, especially if you are not normally with us on a Sunday.

May we all feel the welcome of God and each other.

**We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.30 am.**

**Also Sunday worship** is livestreamed on  **YouTube**

You can find a link on the Ramsgate Salvation Army Web page.

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate)



# Joy



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## What's happening this week at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday 15 December | Prayers (10.00am)<br>3rd Sunday in Advent Joy for ALL (10.30)<br>Children and Youth Church (11.00am)<br>Coffee Fellowship (11.45)<br><b>Singing Group at Homefleet House</b>   |
| Monday to Friday   | Breakfast Drop-in (6.30am-9am)   |
| Monday             | Carl Prison Chaplaincy (am)<br>Little Fishes (P&T group) (9.30 am – 11.30 am)<br>10:10 (The new ACES) 1pm<br>Present Appeal – For referral agencies (3pm -7pm)   |
| Tuesday            | Prayer Meeting (9.30am) (Upper Room)<br>Food Parcel preparation<br>Present Appeal –Referral agencies (9.30am -7pm)<br>No The Well (10.30) and No Light Lunch.<br>Ukrainian Advice Hub (12 noon)<br>No Bible study (1pm)<br>Carl at Dickens Court<br>No Youth Music Group |
| Wednesday          | Friendship club and Lunch club (from 11am)<br>Present Appeal – For referral agencies (2pm -7pm)<br>Kids Club Music Lessons (5.00pm)<br>SINGING GROUP PRACTICE (7.30pm)   |
| Thursday           | Carl & Heather Sabbath Day – Unavailable<br>Forward Trust (from 9am all day)<br>Drumming Workshop (5.30pm)   |
| Friday             | Food Bank (10 am to 12 noon)<br>Present Appeal – For referral agencies (9.30 -3pm)<br>Ukrainian Language Class & Choir (1.45pm)<br>Kids Club (5.30pm)<br>Youth Fellowship (7.30pm)   |
| Saturday 21st      | Carolling with Margate at WWX<br>Ukrainian Christmas Sale (10am to 1pm)<br>Ukrainian Orthodox Service (6pm)  |

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Love for ALL (10.30)

Aladdin Pantomime 2.30pm

Carols Ellington Park 6pm

## Christmas and New Year 2024 Programme

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Sunday 15 December 10.30am              | 3rd Sunday in Advent  |
| Saturday 21 December 10am – 1pm         | Ukrainian Christmas Sale  |
| Saturday 21 December 10am – 1pm         | Carolling with Margate at WWX   |
| Sunday 22 December 10.30am              | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2:30pm | Aladdin at Sarah Thorne Theatre   |
| Sunday 22 December 6pm                  | Carols in Ellington Park  |
| Wednesday 25 <u>December 10.00 am</u>   | Entertainment (from 11.30am)<br>Christmas Day Celebration<br>Christmas Day Dinner and Entertainment |
| Sunday 29 December 10.30am              | Sunday Worship  |

Sign up sheets for Christmas Day Dinner are available. All pantomime tickets are **now sold out**. Over 100 of us are going.....Oh no you're not, oh yes we are!!

### Birthdays:

Nicole Cox      Monday 16-Dec

Ella Davies     Tuesday 17-Dec

Flowers: With thanks to our bounteous God.

<sup>16</sup> **Rejoice** always, <sup>17</sup> **pray** without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We pray for Steve Dearnley following the death of his mum on Friday. We pray for Rebecca and Dillon and the rest of the family.

Prayers for Captain Jan Penfold, following the recent promotion to Glory of her sister Hilda.

Prayers for Averil, who has returned to QEQM after on-going poor health this week although was sent home last night with medication. Be near Lord Jesus.

For Sheila and Josette who both have heavy colds and are resting at home.

For Sheila P who was taken to QEQM with breathing problems this week.

For Douglas, we thank God that he has had a better week yet still pray for a full return to health.

We continue to pray for Kate and ask again you will bring complete healing – in your time. Our prayer focus is for her left hand.

For Adina, friend of Oksana Volia, young mother of 2, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Lord, please heal and restore.

For Maggie as she continues her healing at home after many weeks in QEQM. Pray for Helen too.

We pray for Rita Floodgate after the loss of her husband Bob as a result of the tragic housefire in St Mildred's Road. Ramsgate. Meet her needs, Lord.

We for pray for Lindsay as she waits for her operation.

Prayers too for Nicole's family.

For our great friend Gary V who is receiving palliative care at home and for Jaynie as she supports him.

Prayers too for Rosie Carpe who is receiving cancer treatment.

For Jean Spearing who has been very unwell and awaiting medical appointments.

Fay, suffering from a dreadful cough and breathlessness and debilitating tiredness and still waiting for appointments for her spinal problems and COPD and now being investigated for possible cancer. We pray for a good outcome and for full healing. And for Peter who is also far from well and taking some

time to recover. Also, Simon, Peter's brother who has recently received surgery for the removal of a cancerous kidney. We pray for a full recovery.

We continue to uphold Pauline's daughter Karen.

For Natasha's mum Debra, and for Nick's father, John and wisdom in care and housing matters. We continue to ask protection and hope for Jess. Meet her needs, Lord.

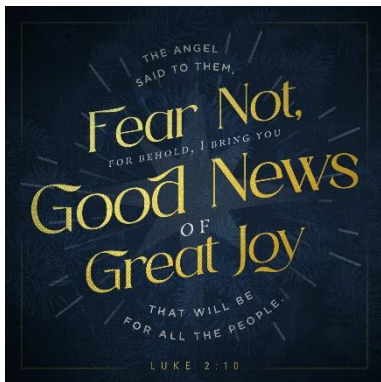
Gary's carer, Linda who is experiencing pain in her foot.

We lift to you Lord, Ellie's dance teacher, Debbie.

Suzie, and her mother, Janine. Irene's mother who is very unwell in Estonia.

And for Helen's friend Rob, who great grand child has been recently diagnosed with a serious condition. Uphold the family Lord.

We pray for peace across God's world, Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon and Israel, the dramatic events in Syria and unrest in Georgia. We pray that the most recent military interventions do not lead to further escalation. We also pray for the situation in Sudan.



The Angel said

*"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."*

**How would you explain the joy that Jesus brings?**

"No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. To those who knock it is opened." CS Lewis

When was the last time you laughed for the sheer joy of your salvation? People are not attracted to sombre doctrines. There is no

persuasive power in a gloomy and morbid religion. Let the world see your joy and you won't be able to keep them away. To be filled with God is to be filled with joy. Anonymous

Joy is not necessarily the absence of suffering, it is the presence of God.” Sam Storms

“Joy bursts in our lives when we go about doing the good at hand and not trying to manipulate things and times to achieve joy.” CS Lewis

If you have no joy, there’s a leak in your Christianity somewhere. Billy Sunday

“Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is.” CS Lewis

“Joy is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian thing. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the result of what happens of an agreeable sort. Joy has its springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross.” Samuel Dickey Gordon

“If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone.” CS Lewis

“The Bible teaches that true joy is formed in the midst of the difficult seasons of life.” - Francis Chan

“Don’t let your happiness depend on something you may lose.” CS Lewis

“The joy of the Lord will arm us against the assaults of our spiritual

enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks.” Matthew Henry

Begin to rejoice in the Lord, and your bones will flourish like an herb, and your cheeks will glow with the bloom of health and freshness. Worry, fear, distrust, care-all are poisonous! Joy is balm and healing, and if you will but rejoice, God will give power.” *A. B. Simpson*

Joy, not grit, is the hallmark of holy obedience. We need to be light-hearted in what we do to avoid taking ourselves too seriously. It is a cheerful revolt against self and pride. - *Richard J. Foster*

It is His joy that remains in us that makes our joy full. - *A. B. Simpson*

You may be lonely, poor, and cold, neglected by the children, forgotten by your friends, yet may have the glad Christmas joy in your heart as Paul had, shut up in prison cells at Rome! - *John R. Rice*

The world looks for happiness through self-assertion. The Christian knows that joy is found in self-abandonment. 'If a man will let himself be lost for My sake,' Jesus said, 'he will find his true self.' - *Elisabeth Elliot*

Joy has nothing to do with material things, or with a man's outward circumstance ... a man living in the lap of luxury can be wretched, and a man in the depths of poverty can overflow with joy. - *William Barclay*

**Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) but can often seem elusive for Christians.**

We must recognise that joy is not based on circumstances. In fact, joy may not even prevent us from experiencing negative emotions.

Rather, joy is a deep-seated sense of happiness in what God has done and what He is doing. The Greek word for "joy" is related to the Greek word for "grace." Truly, joy is a grace bestowed on us by God. So how can we accept and experience the gift of joy?

In many ways, perspective is key. When we look at what God has done for us, we naturally respond with thanksgiving and joy.

When we look at difficult circumstances or the frustrations of life, we naturally respond with discontent. This is not to say that we do not acknowledge the difficulties of this life or the lack in our world. Rather, we do so while still recognising that God is in control and that He loves us.

When we voice our concerns and allow ourselves to be reminded of the goodness of God, we release our burdens. Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

We can experience joy when we give our burdens to Jesus. He helps carry the heavy load. He also reminds us of Who He is. Knowing of His care for us and our ultimate victory in Him, we can experience joy even in our hardships.