



# Ramsgate Salvation Army

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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)



## Covenant Sunday 2025

### Step out – Stand out



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

Sunday 12 January	Prayers (10.00am) Covenant Sunday (10.30) Children and Youth Church (11.00am) Coffee Fellowship (11.45)
Monday to Friday	Breakfast Drop-in (6.30am-9am)
Monday	Carl Prison Chaplaincy (am) Little Fishes (P&T group) (9.30 am – 11.30 am) No 10:10 (The new ACES)
Tuesday	No Prayer Meeting (9.30am) (Upper Room) No food Parcel preparation No The Well (10.30) and No Light Lunch. No Ukrainian Advice Hub (12 noon) No Bible study (1pm) Youth Music Group
Wednesday	Friendship club and Lunch club (from 11am) Kids Club Music Lessons (5.00pm) SINGING GROUP PRACTICE (7.30pm)
Thursday	Carl & Heather Sabbath Day – Unavailable Forward Trust (from 9am all day) Drumming Workshop (5.30pm)
Friday	Food Bank (10 am to 12 noon) Ukrainian Language Class & Choir (1.15pm) Kids Club (5.30pm) Youth Fellowship (7.30pm)
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ukrainian Community Hub (10am to 1pm)
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Worship (10.30) <b>Thanet United in Worship – MINSTER 4.30pm</b>

### Birthdays:

<b>Captain Jan Penfold</b>	<b>Tuesday 14-Jan</b>
<b>Rebecca James</b>	<b>Tuesday 14-Jan</b>
<b>Chandrika</b>	<b>Wednesday 15-Jan</b>
<b>Joe Shaw</b>	<b>Thursday 16-Jan</b>
<b>Cheryl Winspear</b>	<b>Thursday 16-Jan</b>

## 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

As a family we are devastated to learn of the sudden death of Peter (Faulkner) on Friday afternoon. Peter popped into the Salvation Army on Friday morning and arranged to have lunch with Angela and Tara. When Tara called for Peter, she was concerned by his poor health and called 999. Sadly, when they attended it was too late and Peter was pronounced dead despite all of Tara's efforts to save him. Peter was a very loyal friend to Angela and Tara and others, and a great supporter and adherent of Ramsgate Salvation Army. We are shocked at the unexpected manner of his death. We recognise and are grateful for all the efforts Tara made on Friday and share her sadness at the delay in medical help. In our sorrow we take comfort that Peter had a strong faith, and we know God's love for him is eternal. We sometimes question why things happen as they do, but know that God's plan is beyond our understanding and trust Him for He is Good and Faithful. We give thanks for Peter's life and for his Christian witness to all he met. Be at peace. Be at Rest. We rejoice that you are safe with Jesus.

For Douglas, who has been admitted to QEQM after becoming very unwell.  
For Pauline who is so tired and anxious for him.

We pray for Maggie who broke her ankle and is now recovering at home. We continue to pray for the recovery of Sheila P who has returned home after a long stay in QEQM.

Fay, whose breathing has worsened and is due to have heart examination next week. Prayers for Peter as he provides much needed care.

We continue to pray for Anne's brother.

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.

Sheila W is remaining at home for a full recovery.

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

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

Prayers too for Nicole's family.

For Russell as he waits for test results.

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.

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.

## Covenant Sunday - Step up - Step Out

‘Everything you do is connected to who you are as a person and, in turn, creates the person you are becoming. Everything you do affects those you love. All of life is covenant.

Embedded in the idea of prayer is a richly textured view of the world where all of life is organised around invisible bonds or covenants that knit us together. Instead of a fixed world, we live in our Father’s world, a world built for divine relationships between people where, because of the good news, tragedies become comedies and hope is born.’

**Paul E. Miller**

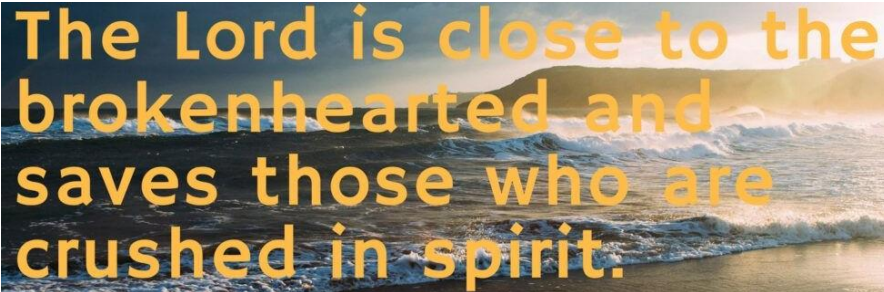
‘Then God establishes his Covenant with Noah, and with his sons, “and with every living creature”. Many recall the Covenant with Noah, but forget the Covenant with all other living beings. However, God does not forget it. He repeats the terms “all flesh” and “every living creature” a number of times, to make sure we get the point. No one can make a Covenant with a stone: for a Covenant to exist, there must be a minimum of two live and responsible parties to it.’

**Margaret Atwood**

‘When God makes a covenant with us, God says: “I will love you with an everlasting love. I will be faithful to you, even when you run away from me, reject me, or betray me.” In our society we don’t speak much about covenants; we speak about contracts. When we make a contract with a person, we say: “I will fulfil my part as long as you fulfil yours. When you don’t live up to your promises, I no longer have to live up to mine.” Contracts are often broken because the partners are unwilling or unable to be faithful to their terms.

‘But God didn’t make a contract with us; God made a covenant with us, and God wants our relationships with one another to reflect that covenant. That’s why marriage, friendship, life in community are all ways to give visibility to God’s faithfulness in our lives together.’

**Henri JM Nouwen**



The Lord is close to the  
brokenhearted and  
saves those who are  
crushed in spirit.

PSALM 34:18

1. *Christians do grieve.* Paul gives believers theological truth about life and death in 1 Thessalonians 4.13 ‘that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.’ Christians don’t grieve for believers who have died *in the same way* as unbelievers grieve—but we do still grieve. Grief is still grief—it hurts keenly. The pain is greatly eased by knowing that our loved ones are blissfully happy, but that doesn’t change the fact that they are not here with us and we miss them desperately. We are glad for them, but we are sad for ourselves. Death is an unnatural intruder into God’s world, the wages of sin, part of God’s righteous curse on the human race. It hurts. Some Christians can give the impression that grieving is a lack of faith. Perhaps they forget that Jesus himself wept at the death of his friend. Grieving is a *good* sign—it’s evidence that we loved the person who has died, that they meant a lot to us, that we are the poorer for having lost them. Isn’t that the conclusion onlookers drew about Jesus’ relationship to Lazarus? ‘So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”’ (Jn 11.36)

2. *Express your emotion.* We are not disembodied souls. Our Bibles teach us that we are made up of two parts—a body and a soul—and there is a complex interplay between these two facets of our being. We don’t just think thoughts. We feel with the emotional register God has

given us. There is nothing sanctified about repressing emotion—it's a denial of our God-given, God-designed humanity. It is more Stoic than Christian. Our emotions are from God. Yes, sin has polluted them, like every other part of our humanity, but that doesn't mean they are themselves evil. There is a godly way of expressing emotion. We need to confess our emotional sins, along with our intellectual ones. We get sad about things we *shouldn't* get sad about, or *to a degree* that we shouldn't get sad—and we *don't* get sad about things we most certainly *should* get sad about, or we don't get sad *enough* about them. We need to strive to express our grief appropriately, at the right time and place. *But there is a time and place for expressing grief.* A good cry is a cathartic blessing from God. Jesus wept—and so should we. Remember too that we all feel and express emotion in different ways, according to the personalities God has given us. There are wrong ways of expressing emotion, but there is no one right way. Two friends of mine in the ministry conducted the funeral services for their fathers, whereas I didn't trust myself to speak a single word at my dad's. Some might weep copiously every day, others hardly at all. Our love is not measured in cubic centimetres of tears!

3. *Take one day at a time.* It's tempting to look down the long tunnel of the next five, ten or twenty years and think 'How will I cope for all this time without the one I have loved.?' But Jesus explicitly tells us not to worry about tomorrow because tomorrow has enough trouble of its own (Mt 6.34). He promises us grace sufficient for each day (2Cor 12.9) and teaches us to come each day humbly depending on him for the needs of that day (Mt 6.11). Don't panic about the next month, year or decade—ask God to bring you through *this* day, with its challenges and demands. *He will.* And then tomorrow ask him for grace for tomorrow.

4. *Be prepared for grief to affect you in a wide and unexpected variety of ways.* We are fearfully and wonderfully made, and only God knows how strongly the innumerable strands of memory and relationship and upbringing bind us to others, especially those in our immediate family.

Someone has written 'I was surprised to find that, for some months afterwards, I felt somewhat listless and lacking in motivation and rather joyless. I have recently started to emerge from that time. It was not very dark, yet it did cast a shadow over things. At first, I wondered what it was, as it was rather unexpected, but friends who had had similar experiences helped me to understand it.'

5. *Accept help.* If you had sustained a serious injury to your body you wouldn't think twice about accepting help from your church family and friends. Bereavement is a serious injury to the soul, so we shouldn't hesitate to accept help when it's offered. We should do this for our own sake—because we need help, but also for the sake of those offering it. People want to show love and we should do to others as we would wish them to do to us and receive it gladly with thankfulness. One day we will look back on this world with its griefs and sorrows in the way we look back on a childhood illness or fracture. Agonizing and prolonged at the time, but just a fleeting moment in our memories, for the Lord himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things will have passed away. (Rev 21.4)

Just a few more short years and we will never again experience these painful feelings of loss. Yet another reason to breathe each day that prayer of the early church, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

A short prayer for those who grieve.

"Father God, we come before You with broken hearts. In this darkest valley, we seek Your peace and comfort". We turn to you for strength and comfort. From the depths of my despair, I reach out for Your peace that surpasses all understanding". "Lord, hold on to me here and guard my fragile heart. Fill me with your peace and make Your presence my refuge and safety".