




Outlook

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Quarterly news and information service for the members, friends, and community of Bedlington and surrounding areas.

 **Sunday Worship...Morning Service at 10am.** **Sunday School at 10.45am.**
Corps Officers : Majors Carrie & Philip James

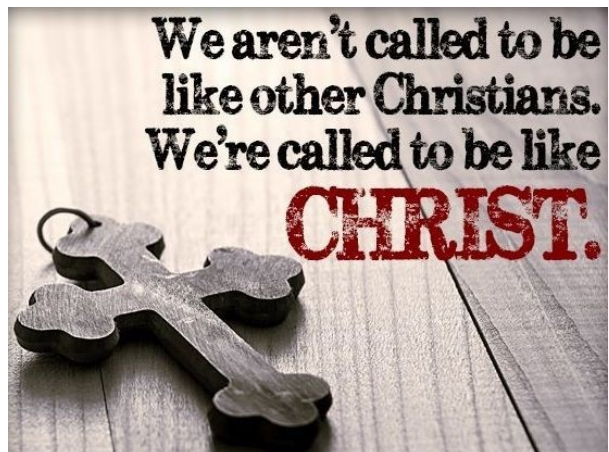
Love is all you Need

We are well into 2025 now, and quite a lot has been happening: it can seem hard to keep up. World politics gets more surprising, confusing and sometimes concerning (at least to me) – as does the news in this country. But on the plus side, Newcastle United are going to Wembley! Within our fellowship it is good to see some new faces, and we have celebrated service with some retirements and some taking new responsibilities. And we are excited that four of our young people are currently engaged in Transformers – a programme of discipleship and leadership training.

With all that is going on, how do we each work out what part we can play in making the world a better place? Within The Salvation Army we have departments and programmes which focus on different social issues. We have a lot of work going on supporting victims of human trafficking. We have debt advisors, people who help individuals find work (Employment Plus), departments looking out for the homeless, those with addictions, the elderly (OPS and OPM), support for the Emergency services, the family tracing service – lots to address specific social needs. These are all good and address specific issues. But to really change the world takes more than that. Jesus said that the most important thing – the greatest commandment – was not about what we do but about attitudes and relationships. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it; You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Matt 22:37-39). Getting our relationships right – with God and with others – is the most important part of discipleship. As we improve our relationships, actions and fruit follow. The more we become the people God intends us to be, the more naturally we do the right things.

So this year, please do engage with all that is going on within our fellowship but more importantly let's all keep learning to love. Harry Read wrote a song that many enjoy – I dare to be different. The words of the last verse sum up this hope:

I dare to want to live like Christ
According to his will and way;
His love to know, compassion share,
And serve him boldly every day.



PJ

A SALVATIONIST STUDENT

Daniel Mercer writes about his time as a salvationist student while studying at the University of Salford

I've spent nearly three years away from Bedlington studying Broadcast Journalism at the University of Salford. While some say student life is the best time of your life, that's not always the case. However, being a Salvationist student has given me a unique perspective, so I will illustrate the highs and the lows. Being a Salvationist Student.



When I first arrived in Salford, the country was mourning Queen Elizabeth II, leading to the cancellation of most freshers' events. This made my transition interesting, as everyone focused on the loss. I connected with about half of my classmates in the following weeks through lectures, seminars, and workshops. I got to know people that I would still consider now as good friends.

Throughout my life, I never really shared with anyone that I went to school or even college with that I attended the Salvation Army regularly. But I got to meet new people from completely different backgrounds and, in some cases, countries. I didn't hide the fact I was part of the Salvation Army at any point, even turning up to a lecture in the sales equivalent of full uniform after attending the funeral of Ernie Young. Was there a reason for not hiding it this time? No. I decided to embrace that being a part of the Salvation Army was just a part of who I was; with 75% of people I've met during my time at university not originating from Greater Manchester, we will all have a background or something unique to us, and this is mine.



As mentioned in the last paragraph, I've been a part of the setup at the Salvation Army in Sale and regularly take part in the band's maintenance. This allowed me to play at some unique locations and events, to name a few. I played under the cockpit of Concord three times in Hale town centre, meeting Newcastle United and England legend Kevin Keegan twice. I had concerts in random churches where my lectures were in the back row. I've been at the Trafford Centre twice and even had the opportunity to listen to brilliant Salvation Army bands such as Birmingham Citidial and the New York Staff Band.

But adequately, the best experience I've had since being a part of the band, the experience was only a couple of weeks ago, was a joint concert with the world-famous Black Dyke. We only did three pieces with them being Star Lake (Eric Ball), Christ in Me (Kenneth Downie) and Fire in the Blood (Paul Lovett-Cooper). What I got out of the night was some of the techniques they use regarding how they pronounce a note, how often they breathe, and how they phrase the music. It really was an incredible night.



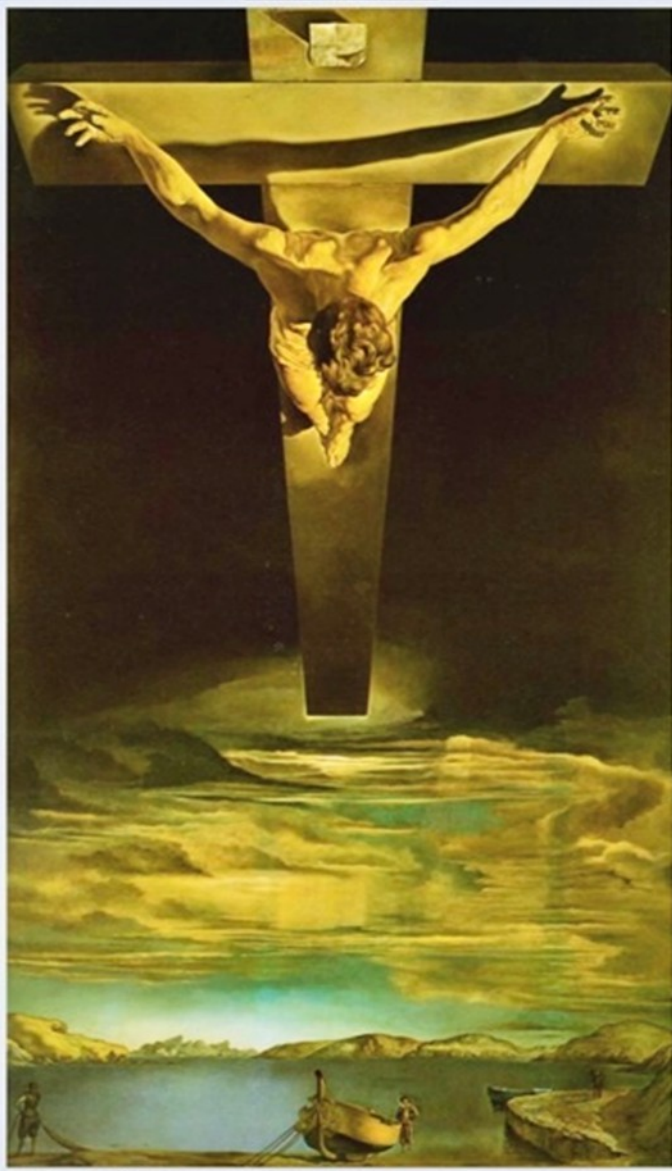
Being in Manchester, there is a massive hub of student traffic throughout the area; during my time at Salford, there has been a total of 13 students who come regularly to Sale, Eight currently worshipping. Now that I have a little Renault Clio, I've now got the role of a taxi driver with the four other students who study at Salford University. Some would say that doing this

wastes my fuel and money, but it really isn't. We are very well looked after down here, having reimbursed travel to and from army events, getting lunch provided weekly and meeting for monthly socials. Our cell group meets twice a month, falling on the 2nd and 4th Sunday. Cell Groups aren't really my cup of tea; however, spending an hour or two with the other students and discussing issues we can all relate to at some point in our student life is good.

I spoke about the good, but I must conclude with the bad. Being a University student comes with a lot of stress, especially during deadline season; ask any student how long and late they can spend in a university library. However, the mental battles you sometimes face are extreme; the stress and nerves you have while writing essays and making portfolios can get the better of you. Sometimes, the devil can get the better of you, and at one point, I did turn to the devil. I'm pretty well-known around the university. I gave some information to some people that I thought I trusted. Still, the information (which I'm not going to go into detail about here) got spilt out very quickly, and it put me in a dark place where I didn't want to hear anything or speak to anyone. This is where being a salvationist student comes in handy for me. Speaking to people good at pastoral care allowed me to get out of the hole I stuck myself in and be who I am again.

To conclude, being a student in any university can be a brilliant experience for anyone if they find the right people and societies they enjoy (something I haven't been able to refer to in this feature) then being a student can be the best time of your life, don't expect it to be plain sailing

CHRIST CRUCIFIED: A Different Perspective



Christ of Saint John of the Cross, 1951

SALVADOR DALÍ: "My picture was inspired by the drawing made of the Crucifixion by St John of the Cross [1542-91]...It is a drawing made by this saint after a mystical revelation... (and) so impressed me the first time I saw it that later in California, in a dream, I saw Christ in the same position, but in the landscape of Port Lligat, and I heard voices which told me, 'Dalí, you must paint this Christ.' The next day, I started the painting."

Dalí's 'Christ of St John of the Cross' is on permanent display at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow

The first time I saw Dalí's Christ of St John of the Cross, I was stopped in my tracks. Here was a very different perspective on Christ crucified – looking at Christ from above, the perspective of heaven and of God Himself, and placing Christ crucified visually at the intersection of heaven and earth.

Referring to Dalí's painting, Emmanuel Nnadozie wrote 'The Cross is the place where the worthy Lamb that was slain begins to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing (Rev.5:12)'. This perspective sees the Cross as the moment of glory Jesus spoke about in John 17:1-2. Purposefully, Dalí seeks to create a work of beauty, 'a crucified Christ, mindful of wounds, but with nails not prominent, no crown of thorns'. "My main concern", wrote Dalí, "was to paint a Christ as beautiful as the same God that he embodies." Christ is complete, Man and God, mission accomplished!

However, in the lower part of the painting, we have a depiction of the bay of Port Lligat, Dalí's hometown, with two fishermen going about their everyday business. And we see the glorified Christ, head bowed, arms outstretched, as if still fully focussed upon humanity below. The Word that became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood (John 1:14) is now high and lifted up, seeking to draw all humanity to himself (John 12:32).

But how? The fishermen? Is this where we come into the picture? (read John 21)

With its stunning perspective and profound portrayal, is Christ of St John of the Cross illuminating for us this Eastertide a simple truth?:

Follow thou me, he calls again,
And I will make you fishers of men.
As in the days by Galilee,
Jesus is calling you and me.

[Sidney Edward Cox].

GJS



A LENT Reflection:

*If on my soul a trace of sin remaineth,
If on my hands a stain may yet be seen;
If one dark thought a weary mind retaineth,
O wash me, Lord, till every part be clean.
For I would live that men may see thyself in me,
I would in faith ascend thy holy hill;
And with my thoughts in tune with thy divinity,
Would learn how best to do thy holy will.*

[Arch R. Wiggins – SA Songbook 650]



A GOOD FRIDAY Reflection:

*Lord, make Calvary real to me,
Lord, make Calvary real to me,
Open mine eyes to see victory in Christ for me,
Lord, make Calvary real to me.*

[Sidney Edward Cox – SA Songbook 182]



EASTER MORNING:

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring,
Love drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.*

[Brian Wren – SA Songbook 217]

CHANGES TO OUR HOME LEAGUE MEETING

From the beginning of 2025 it has been necessary to change the frequency of our Ladies Home League Meeting to a monthly gathering.

However, we have now added a light Lunch to our schedule so that once a month all ladies are invited to:

12:30 pm	Soup, Roll & a Sweet Treat
1.30pm	Programme with Guest Speakers, & Special Events

Next Meetings (Mondays):
March 31; April 28; May 19; June 30

Bedlington SA Band: New Leadership



[Major Philip James; BM Neil Lightley; BM Brian Storey; Dep BM Stephen Burn; Major Carrie James]

During our Sunday Morning Meeting on March 2nd we were able to express our gratitude to God, and our heartfelt thanks to Bandmaster Brian Storey, as we celebrated his faithful and gracious leadership of our Band over the past 13 years. There was also opportunity to recognise and welcome our new musical leaders as Neil Lightley (BM) and Stephen Burn (Deputy BM) received their commissions, and all three leaders were able to conduct the Band in contributions to our time of worship together. Brian's influence over the years was nicely articulated in Ross's contribution to the Salvationist's 'Unsung Heroes' feature in October last year:

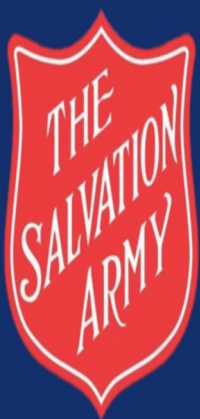
Bedlington: Brian Storey

At the age of 88, Bandmaster Brian continues to lead the band faithfully and with great skill... he has always been extremely forward-thinking and receptive to change in our church and has made the band a more inclusive Christian fellowship in recent years....He and his wife, Hilda, have been hugely interested in and encouraging of the children in our church. Brian's kindness, generosity and faithfulness really reflect God's love. Brian never seeks the limelight but speaks with wisdom and calm assuredness. He continues to play a significant part in the lives of so many people, through his own devotion to God.

Asst. Corps Sergeant Major Ross Floyd

[from The Salvationist: 01/10/2024]

Music With A Mission



Featuring
Bedlington Salvation Army Band
supported by Newcastle City Temple Songsters

Newcastle Salvation Army, 29-31 Stamfordham Road, Cowgate, NE5 3JQ

Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 7pm

£5 Ticket Donation



Charity No. 214779

CANADIAN STAFF SONGSTERS

An evening of music with The Salvation Army's
premier choir in Canada



Bedlington Corps

8th July 7.00pm

- Tickets £10



The Salvation Army is a church and registered Charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6599).
Territorial Leaders for the United Kingdom and Ireland: Commissioners Jenine and Paul Main



Visit of Canadian Staff Songsters—8th July 2025—Fundraising

Whilst the Corps can cover any deficit, every effort is to be made to reduce the impact by concentrating programme on fundraising in the immediate future, and indeed throughout the year. The following were suggested, and Corps Secretary Bev Nichol will consult with those involved as event planners agree dates etc. The following events suggested : Summer fair/ Strawberry Tea, Music for a Summer Evening, Band Festival to follow on from upcoming NCT visit, Corps Anniversary Car Rally, Easter Film Night for Families, Coffee Evenings in homes, Barbecue Evening, Murder Mystery Evening etc.

Corps folk are also to be invited to “Sponsor a Songster” by donating towards the accommodation cost, perhaps in lieu of any billeting expenses which might have been incurred had not the hotel route been necessary.

We are looking forward to a really special event would encourage all to help in making it a real success. KL Corps Treasurer

For all programme, events and news please Like and Follow us on Facebook at Bedlington Salvation Army.

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

SUNDAY

Morning Service 10.00am

Sunday School 10.45am

MONDAY

Home League 12.30pm

NOW MONTHLY—see page 5

WEDNESDAY

Little Lambs Toddler Group 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

Seniors Lunch Club 12.00pm

Two Course meal for Over 60s.

Please call Arleen to book a place

Over 60s Sunshine Hour 1.30—2.30pm

All welcome (if you're over 60)

FRIDAY

Little Lambs Toddler Group 9.15-11.15am

Children up to 3yrs must be with an adult.

Call Arleen to book a place.

Thankful Friday 10am-noon.

MARCH

Every Friday

Thankful Friday welcomes CTiB Lent 10am
(Homily at 11.45am)

7th March The Salvation Army

14th March St Andrew's

21st March Stakeford Methodist

28th March St John's

4th April Trinity

11th April Hope Church

Sunday 9th

Self Denial Altar Service 10am

Wednesday 19th

Men's Fellowship (Takeaway Evening) 7pm

Saturday 22nd 7pm

Bedlington Band at Newcastle City Temple

Wednesday 28th

CTiB Quiz 7pm

Sunday 30th

Mothering Sunday Service 10am

Monday 31st

Home League Theme—Easter 12.30pm

APRIL

Wednesday 2nd

Women's Fellowship 7.30pm

Easter Wreath Making

Saturday 5th

Young People's Celebration Weekend

Talent evening 6pm

Sunday 6th

Young People's Celebration Weekend

With Cpt Luke Cozens 10am

Wednesday 9th

Corps Council 7pm

Friday 18th

Good Friday worship 10am

Led by Mjrs David & Gillian Burns

CTiB Market Place witness 11.30am

Sunday 20th

Easter Day Prayer Breakfast 8.30am

Easter Worship led by Mjrs Burns 10.00am

Monday 28th

Home League 12.30pm

Tuesday 29th

SP&S Roadshow 12.30-8pm

Wednesday 30th

SP&S Roadshow 9am-1pm

MAY

Wednesday 7th

Ladies Fellowship 7.30pm

Woodwork with Wes

Saturday 10th

Corps Anniversary Car Rally & picnic 2pm

Sunday 11th

Corps Anniversary Celebration
with Cpts Callum & Berri McKenna 10am

Monday 19th

Home League Afternoon Tea 12.30pm

Wednesday 21st

Men's Fellowship Chip Shop Walk Seaton Sluice
7pm



Food Bank Referrals Mon-Wed & Fri 08.00– Noon. For Collection.

The Salvation Army is a Church and registered Charity ...No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359