MOVING MOUNTAINS
The Salvation Army Debt Advice Service
JOHN Gowans’ memorable mission statement included the words, ‘serve suffering humanity’. But what does that mean?

For some it simply means helping people in need. The Salvation Army does that in all sorts of ways, and pages 12 and 13 highlight a relatively new service: debt advice. The article explains how the work, which began in 2007, has developed, what approach it takes and how it has helped many people. On page 14 we hear from someone whose situation has been transformed because of it.

But the debt advice service does more than simply help people get out of debt. It also shows them how to maintain a debt-free lifestyle. ‘We’re as much about preventing debt as we are about dealing with the problem,’ says Financial Inclusion Development Manager Lorraine Cook. Helping people to help themselves is the most effective approach. As the Chinese proverb says: ‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.’

But serving suffering humanity may call for further steps. Social service is fine, but often social action is also required, which involves addressing policies and practices that are causing the problem in the first place. And this is where some Christians become nervous, because it may mean getting involved in politics.

The Army does not take a party political stand but does raise its voice – whichever party is in power – locally and nationally. We may not be as radical as Adrian Lyons suggests we were in our early days (see page 9), but our Public Affairs Unit has spoken up on matters of concern, such as homelessness, gambling, welfare and social care. And some corps have engaged with politicians on particular issues.

The nervousness about getting involved is perhaps a result of the way politics is often conducted. In his tribute to Lord Foster on pages 10 and 11, Major Nigel Bovey shows that Derek was an effective politician while maintaining a Salvationist witness, demonstrating that it is possible to be principled in a sometimes murky world. At the end of his article Nigel asks, ‘Who will be the next Salvationist MP?’ Although there isn’t one at the moment, some have stood unsuccessfully for the Westminster parliament, while one of our adherent members is a Conservative member of the Scottish parliament. There are also Salvationist local councillors across the political spectrum. They are to be commended.

While it is easy to be cynical about politicians, especially in the present climate, we need to remember that politics is ultimately about people. It should therefore be regarded as an honourable calling, and politicians, as well as those who engage with them, need our prayers – for wisdom, integrity and courage.

Finally, I can’t end this comment without mentioning a long-serving member of the Salvationist team who is entering retirement. Our desktop publishing designer, Colin Potter, has worked for the Army for 45 years, starting out at the old Campfield Press. We are grateful for his dedication and the consistently high standard of his work, and we wish him a long and happy retirement. Thank you Colin!
**WOMEN’S BIBLE DISPUTES ‘PATRIARCHAL’ READINGS**

A group of Protestants and Roman Catholic feminist theologians have published a ‘Women’s Bible’ which, they say, counters claims that the biblical texts are misogynistic, and instead can be used as a tool for women’s emancipation.

Their book focuses on a series of passages which, when examined closely in their context, contradict the impression of patriarchy or sexism propagated by traditional interpretations…

Lauriane Savoy, from the department of theology at the University of Geneva… worked with her fellow Swiss theologian, Professor Elisabeth Parmentier, on the texts…

In their introduction to Une Bible des Femmes (A Women’s Bible), they say that their intention is to ‘scrutinise shifts in the Christian tradition, things that have remained concealed, tendentious translations, partial interpretations’.

*Church Times*

**CHRISTIANS IN 73 COUNTRIES FACE EXTREME PERSECUTION**

The persecution of Christians around the world has worsened in the past year: 245 million face violence or oppression, 30 million more than a year ago.

An analysis of conditions, laws and incidents in 150 countries has found that Christians face high levels of persecution in 73 countries, up from 58.

New laws in China seeking to control religious expression have led to the authorities raiding, shutting down or demolishing hundreds of churches…

North Korea ranks as the worst country to be a Christian, followed by Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan and Sudan…

Last month Jeremy Hunt, the foreign secretary, ordered a review into the situation in…

*The Times*

**STRicter ID checks aim to prevent UK gamblers cheating system**

Tougher ID checks will be brought in to make sure self-excluded gamblers cannot cheat the system to place bets, according to the Gambling Commission.

It comes after the head of GamStop, a scheme designed to help problem gamblers, said she was deeply concerned customers gambling using incorrect details.'

A Gambling Commission spokesperson said they were already aware of the issues raised in the investigation.

The spokesperson added: ‘We will shortly announce the outcome of a consultation on ID verification and if our proposals are implemented later this year, gambling businesses will have to prevent customers gambling using incorrect details.’

*The Guardian*

**SCRAPPING FREE TV LICENCE FOR OVER-75s COULD PUSH ELDERLY INTO POVERTY, CHARITY WARNS**

The BBC’s plan to abolish the free TV licence for over-75s could push more than 50,000 UK pensioners below the poverty line, a charity has warned.

Currently, households with people over 75 are entitled to a free TV licence. However, the BBC is looking to reform the subsidy after projections showed the free licence scheme could cost the corporation £745 million by 2022.

In November the corporation announced it would no longer provide the funding to sustain the scheme and would be holding public consultations about introducing ‘means-based testing’ for the elderly instead.

Age UK now wants the government to take back responsibility for funding free TV licences, saying the scheme helps millions sustain their quality of life into late old age.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK, said: ‘Scraping the free TV licence would be a real blow for many older people who already have many other challenges to contend with.‘

‘Millions of older people, particularly those who are lonely or housebound with disabilities, rely on their TV as their trusted companion and window on the world, and it would be cruel indeed to undermine this in any way.’

*The Independent*
Chief commissions Messengers of Compassion

RWANDA

CHIEF of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham and World Secretary for Women’s Ministries Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham travelled to Kigali for a weekend full of Christian worship, praise and celebration, which included the commissioning and appointing of new officers.

Nairobi Central Temple Band and Songsters provided lively music during the meeting when Commissioner Bronwyn admitted parents of the cadets into the Order of the Silver Star, recognising their role in the lives of the cadets. As a mother herself, the commissioner appealed to the parents to constantly support their children in prayer.

A march of witness opened Sunday’s activities, when the international leaders took the salute. This was followed by the commissioning of the cadets, when the Chief emphasised the importance of living authentic Christian lives. Many people responded at the mercy seat.

The new lieutenants received their appointments from Rwanda’s Officer Commanding Lieut-Colonel Seth Appaateng, and the cadets, Kamonyi Divisional Youth Choir, Kigali Sectional Youth Choir and Burundi District Choir presented music items.

After presiding over officers councils the following day, the Chief and Commissioner Bronwyn laid wreaths and signed the visitor’s book at the Rwandan Genocide Memorial. The Chief challenged Salvationists and friends to ‘learn from such a tragedy to ensure we do all we can to promote peace and mutual respect’. – A. R.

Salvationists witness at annual Rose Parade

PASADENA

MORE than 400 Salvationist musicians travelled from many continents to form eight international bands for the annual Rose Parade. This was the 100th occasion of Army participation, and the parade was seen by more than one million spectators and many millions more, who watched live on national television.

Leader of the California South divisional music department, Bandmaster Kevin Larsson, described the event as ‘the world’s biggest open-air meeting.’

He added: ‘We’re playing “Amazing Grace” or “Stand Up For Jesus” and often the name of the song is displayed on TV, so we can reach millions and millions with that ministry.’ – A. R.

Food donations help people in need

BRADFORD ORCHARD

THE wide scope of community service was recognised when the lord mayor of Bradford, Councillor Zafar Ali (pictured with Divisional Commander Lieut-Colonel Michael Highton and corps officer Captain Glenn Furlong), attended the carol service and donated a number of food items, which were used on Christmas Day to feed people experiencing homelessness.

Residents of the Harehills district donated more than 1,000 tins of food through the retail store B&M to support people experiencing homelessness in West Yorkshire.

A Christmas tree donated by Methodist and URC friends from St Andrew’s Church in Skipton featured many images showing the diverse work of the Army. – G. F.
Earthquake and tsunami response

SULAWESI

MANY weeks after the devastating tsunami The Salvation Army continues to give ongoing support to those affected. Originally, more than 2,000 people were killed and tens of thousands were displaced. The Army’s hospital and mobile clinics have assessed and treated more than 8,300 patients. The mobile clinics are also assisting young people with trauma healing sessions and counselling.

Community kitchens are serving meals and emergency food parcels are being distributed. A shortage of water supply means it has to be transported long distances. Much has been accomplished and plans are being made for future redevelopment. – B. W.

FAKENHAM: Formed recently, the fellowship band presented a carol service, which raised £534 to support the Army’s disaster emergency fund for Indonesia. Guest soloists David Peek (piano) and Trevor Nash (vocal) took part and the band played a variety of Christmas music, including ‘Joyful And Triumphant’, ‘Christmas Praise’ and ‘Yuletide Rag’. – A. A.

READING CENTRAL: The band supported the outdoor community Christmas carol service at Caversham Court Gardens. A large crowd enjoyed the programme of carols sung by St Peter’s Church Choir. – R. W.

SHOEBURYNESS: Organisations, churches, community groups and individuals donated items for the food and toy parcel appeal. The corps helped 121 people in and around the area. – R. D.

STAPLE HILL: A light-up life service for St Peter’s Hospice remembered loved ones and friends. Throughout the service employees took part with readings and all corps sections took part. Everyone had the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance and an offering of £3,000 was taken to further the work of the hospice. – V. W.

GREENOCK: More than 50 service users from the regular drop-in gathered for the annual community Christmas meal and carol service. These were enjoyed through the work of the integrated mission service with corps members, Greenock Floating Support Service users and Scottish Drug and Alcohol Service users. – L. A.

CAMBRIDGE CITADEL: The corps presented its annual Christmas concert, entitled Christmas Begins Here. Guests this year were the Black Dyke Trombone Quartet and Elliot Launn (piano, Regent Hall), supported by the band and songsters. The entire company of musicians engaged in the finale, ‘Merry Christmas Everyone’. – J. M.
BELLSHILL: As part of its busy carolling programme, the band presented the annual Music for a Christmas evening concert to a capacity congregation. The band played ‘A Christmas Overture’ and ‘Carol Of The Bells’. Soloists YP Band Leader Chris Shanks (euphonium), Deputy Songster Leader Lynn Shanks (flugelhorn) and Daniel McMillan (vocal) brought ‘In Gardens Of Peace’, ‘In The Bleak Midwinter’ and ‘Joseph’s Lullaby’, respectively. The concert raised £1,240 for the Neonatal Unit at Wishaw General Hospital. Corps members Stephen and Tracy Docherty, whose daughter spent 11 weeks in the unit last year, presented the cheque to Neonatal Unit Development Manager Jane Telfer; they are pictured with Bandmaster Yvonne Ferguson. – M. S.

BURYTON-ON-TRENT: The band played at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, where 1,500 people enjoyed singing carols around the Christmas tree. At Messy Church, 70 people engaged in crafts, including the making of Christingles. Many church people, who use the same facilities as the corps, participated in a carol service led by corps officers Majors Julian and Julie Rowley. Preparations for Christmas concluded with a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. – K. A.

For the first time, Shoeburyness Corps takes part in a carolling event Carols In The Courtyard – held in the car park; more than 750 leaflets were given out in the area and many new contacts with neighbours were made.

THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE: A group of musicians from the Music and Creative Arts Unit at THQ supported the Judicial Office Choir at a carol service; judges, staff and visitors showed warm appreciation for the contributions. Choir leader Rhoda Atkinson (Croydon Citadel) sang ‘O Holy Night’ and the Lord Chief Justice, The Right Hon Lord Burnett of Maldon, provided one of the readings. More than £300 was raised for the work of The Salvation Army and St Joseph’s Hospice. – R. A.
New Salvation Army Music Index

SP&S

SPALVATIONIST Publishing and Supplies (SP&S) has announced a new website that will allow users to download Salvation Army sheet music online.

Salvation Army Music Index (Sami) – relaunching on 1 February – has been available as an information search function for a number of years. Working alongside developers Dale and Rowan Caffull, SP&S are now extending its functionality to provide a wide range of titles available to purchase digitally, saving in the user’s online account to be viewed at any time.

Users will no longer have to consider delivery times or costs and will be able to download individual parts as needed. Sheet music can also be purchased in hard copy from the website. Music promotions manager Richard Phillips says: ‘It is important that SP&S keeps up with growth and development of the digital world and provides sheet music in a format that is accessible to all our customers.’

The index already features a comprehensive catalogue of Army band and vocal titles from 1886 to the present. Sheet music available to download will include all brass titles from 2007 onwards, as well as hundreds of other popular titles.

The website also features a complete list of Salvation Army vocal titles, dating back as far as 1886, and there are plans to make these available for download. – M. C.

Sami is accessible by visiting

www.samusicindex.com

Phillip Baker is commissioned as bandmaster at Consett as his father retires after almost 41 years of service

Hucknall’s ‘pop-up’ band plays carols at a hairdresser’s shop; the members are all retired and only play on special occasions

Maureen Colvin receives gifts from children representing the many she had cared for over the years, and corps officer Lieutenant Emma Heal pays tribute to her commitment and devotion

Thirty-six people from the community enjoy Christmas lunch in January at Brixham Corps; afterwards some people stayed for a singalong and to play games
Entertainer Christmas partnership a resounding success

UK

THE Salvation Army’s pilot partnership with The Entertainer toyshop over Christmas was a resounding success.

Every Entertainer store across the country linked with a nearby corps resulting in 162 Salvation Army centres benefiting by using donations to boost their annual toy appeal. Between 28 November and 8 December, members of the public were able to buy a new toy in Entertainer stores and donate it directly to The Salvation Army.

Reflecting The Entertainer’s Christian ethos, the store also provided 50,000 copies of the Christmas edition of Kids Alive! through its shops and covered the cost of almost 33,000 copies for corps distribution. Customers also had the option to donate £5 online towards the appeal, with The Entertainer pledging to match every donation. Disadvantaged children received more than 35,000 gifts through this partnership with the store, which also donated 22,000 children’s books. – S. C.

FRONTLINE

CHALLENGES

SHOULD CHRISTIANS SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES?

In our frontline service – among friends, colleagues or neighbours – we’re often asked about faith and ethics; David Newstead offers some responses

A couple of years ago Captain Chris Carré, a Salvation Army officer on secondment to the Royal Air Force, spoke to my Rotary club on his role as a chaplain in the RAF. In the discussion that followed there was considerable debate about the merits or otherwise of the involvement of Christians serving in the military.

Many Christians believe that the Bible strictly forbids the taking of life and quote Exodus 20:13: ‘Thou shalt not kill’ (King James Version). However, in more modern translations the commandment is, ‘You shall not murder’ (New International Version), which is the unlawful taking of human life.

Under special circumstances the Israelites could use capital punishment for murder (see Exodus 21:12–14 and Leviticus 24:17 and 21) and adultery (see Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22–24). In our so-called more enlightened times most of us would balk at these ‘permissions’.

The question, though, is: Should a Christian support a just war? It is very clear that the Bible does not approve of war for every cause and encourages peace with all persons. However, it does identify several conditions for a just war: it must be declared by the government (see Romans 13:4), it must be in defence of the innocent or against an evil aggressor (see Genesis 14) and it must be fought by just means (see Deuteronomy 20:19).

Some Christians take the view that all war is wrong and become conscientious objectors, and many have been imprisoned for their beliefs. When the Military Service Act brought in conscription in 1916 the Society of Friends (Quakers) established the Friends Ambulance Unit, which served with distinction in the First World War, taking the wounded from the front line to the comparative safety of hospital bases.

The Salvation Army positional statement is that Salvationists should always seek to be peacemakers but recognises that sometimes conflict may be necessary to defend the oppressed and the defenceless. Many Salvationists have served, and still do serve, in the armed forces, and in times of war have made the supreme sacrifice. Veterans of the Second World War still speak highly of the red shield mobile canteens, which always managed to get to the troops on the front line providing that welcome cup of tea.

TO PONDER

‘It is not enough to win a war; it is more important to organise the peace’ (Aristotle).

DAVID NEWSTEAD
IS A SOLDIER AT BIRMINGHAM CITADEL
Adrian Lyons explores the history of The Salvation Army’s relationship with society

RECENTLY I was reminded just how radical The Salvation Army in the UK used to be. I am familiar with the Army’s early interventions for social justice, which enabled John Gowans to include a song in the musical The Blood Of The Lamb describing William Booth as the General who ‘loved the working class of England’. It is a great phrase as it places the early Army as the religious wing of a historical phenomenon that expressed itself through the rise of trades unions in its industrial expression and the emergence of the Labour Party as its political expression.

The love and affection with which society esteems the 21st-century Salvation Army were not demonstrated so consistently in the early days when soup kitchens were established to feed striking London dockers and their families. Match manufacturers were not impressed when the Army established a factory producing safety matches, putting out of business traditional match making with its accompanying disease of phossy jaw. Also, the trial of Bramwell Booth and others for kidnap, following their efforts to expose the hidden abuses of child prostitution and their successful campaign to raise the age of consent in response to the plight of 13-year-old Eliza Armstrong, again represented the interests of the marginalised against the powerful.

According to Karl Marx’s collaborator Friedrich Engels, The Salvation Army ‘revives the propaganda of early Christianity, appeals to the poor as to the elect, fights capitalism in a religious way, and thus fosters an element of early Christian class antagonism which one day may become troublesome to the well-to-do people who now find the ready money for it’.

The Army was not afraid to take direct action to bring about change in society and fight for social justice. However, it went deeper than simply reform. As John Coutts explains in The

“The appetite for being separate from the community has waned”

Salvationists: ‘The old idea of separation from the world meant that the believer centred his life totally on the Christian community, and created an entire culture there.’ So, for early Salvationists, the Army was not something to do on Sundays but was the focus for their whole lives. As a result there was no place for ‘worldly entertainment’ such as cinema or sport, let alone the pub; increasingly Salvationists were a separate group within society. As General Bramwell Booth celebrated: ‘We have created a nation within a nation.’

This period of phenomenal growth for The Salvation Army coincided with a celebration of empire and, across Western Europe, a rise in nationalism. Yet the Salvation Army coincided with a celebration of empire and, across Western Europe, a rise in nationalism. Yet the Salvation Army was separate from the nation in many ways, when it came to war it joined the mainstream. There has been a tradition of support for pacifism among a few prominent Salvationists. William Booth’s son-in-law, Arthur Booth-Clibborn, was greatly disturbed that, although The Salvation Army’s Naval and Military League members promised ‘total abstinence’, ‘purity’, ‘to discourage gambling’, ‘to daily read from God’s word’ and ‘to do my level best to bring my comrades to Christ’, there was no promise to obey the command, ‘Thou shall not kill’. Herbert Booth wrote after the First World War: ‘If we Christians fail to make war against war with at least an equal valour as that manifested by those who risk their lives in defence of their country we… can hope for nothing but contempt for our message.’

Since those heady early days the appetite for being separate from the community has waned. Banned activities for Salvationists were reduced throughout the 20th century. Attendance at sporting events no longer led to suspension or being forced to march behind the band in disgrace. (I remember family pangs of guilt when going to a cinema in the 1960s to see The Sound Of Music.) Since the 1990s the ultimate taboo for Salvationist musicians, making music with secular bands and choirs, has been abandoned. It seems unlikely that Salvationists would tolerate a return to the separatist culture of the late 19th century. Therefore, on a recent Sunday, while most of the congregation were focused on the screen showing the words of ‘O Happy Day’ (SASB 882), my eyes were transfixed on George Scott Railton’s words in my song book: ‘No home on earth have I/ No nation owns my soul’ (SASB 879). Revolutionary stuff!

ADRIAN IS BANDMASTER AT COLCHESTER CITADEL
ORD Foster of Bishop Auckland was a friend in a high place. A lifelong Salvationist – he soldiered with his wife, Anne, at Sunderland Millfield – Derek Foster was the Army’s only member of parliament.

In 1979 he was elected as MP for Bishop Auckland, championing the North East in the House of Commons until 2005.

In 1983 Labour leader Neil Kinnock appointed Derek as his parliamentary private secretary. Two years later he became the opposition chief whip, responsible for getting colleagues to toe the party line when voting. The Guardian tribute writer suggested that Derek’s teetotal lifestyle was one that ‘in the view of many Labour MPs ought to have disqualified him even from standing for the job’. That it didn’t is testament to Derek’s commitment to keeping his promises. Derek served as chief whip under Kinnock, John Smith, Margaret Beckett and Tony Blair for a total of ten years.

In 1993 he was appointed a privy councillor and became the Right Hon Derek Foster, then in 1995 he became shadow chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Two years later, he chaired the employment and the education and employment select committees.

When interviewed for the War Cry in 1996 he was looking forward to being able to serve his country further. What role, I asked him, would he personally like in a future Labour government? He replied: ‘Just to be sitting round the top table, having influence on shaping government policy and, hopefully, managing to change the country in the direction that we would like to see it go would be fascinating and well worth doing.’

Come Labour’s landslide victory the following year, things did not get better. Word at the time was that he had been promised a seat at that top table. Somebody, it seems, did not keep their word. Derek was disappointed – very disappointed. But he continued to serve his constituents with grace, compassion and dignity. In 2005 he was ennobled and took his seat in the Lords, whence Hansard records him continuing to speak up against injustice.

I first met Derek in December 1994, shortly after I joined the War Cry. I was to report on the parliamentary carol service – featuring the International Staff Band – that Derek had founded nine years earlier.

To the first-time visitor, the oak-vaulted Westminster Hall, scene of royal trials and executions, with its stained-glass windows and spectres of history, can be overwhelming. As I was getting my bearings and telling myself not to mess up, Derek stepped forward from the crowd of early arrivals and introduced himself. Graciously, he then introduced me to Madam Speaker – his good friend, the formidable Betty Boothroyd.

During post-service tea in the Speaker’s apartment, Derek sought me out, gave me his card and offered to help ‘in any way I can’. He was as good as his word.

The following year I started to interview Christian MPs for the War Cry. Not only did Derek participate in that long-running series but also suggested names of those whom I might helpfully invite.

In his interview he credited the Army for preparing him for politics: ‘I was really painfully shy as a young boy. I prayed hard that I would be able to speak in public. My life was transformed at 13 when I got converted. Not only did my new-found faith give me a sense of purpose but also I found that within 12 months I was actually speaking in outdoor services.’

The War Cry series came to the attention of a publisher and the book Christians In The House was born.

Major Nigel Bovey pays tribute to Lord Foster, who was promoted to Glory on 6 January aged 81

Major Nigel Bovey pays tribute to Lord Foster, who was promoted to Glory on 6 January aged 81
Given that it contained interviews with 50 MPs from 8 political parties, I spoke with Derek about the possibility of a parliamentary launch — oh, and I needed someone of substance to write the foreword. ‘Leave it with me,’ Derek assured me in the comfort of a Commons tearoom. Confidently, I did.

On a crisp autumn morning in 1998, beneath the shadow of Westminster Abbey, MPs and members of the press gathered in St Margaret’s church, Westminster, for Derek to host the book launch. Hot off the press, it had a foreword. Derek had worked his persuasive powers on none other than the Speaker of the House of Commons.

In his opening remarks on that occasion, a sharp-suited Derek told those gathered that he, too, wore a Salvation Army uniform.

It was a uniformed Lord Foster who, in 2015, crossed from Westminster to the East End’s Whitechapel to be the guest speaker at the launch of my book that tells the story of the Army’s battle for survival against the Skeleton Army, Blood On The Flag. On a steamy summer’s evening, political survivor Derek was typically generous to the author and challenging in his remarks regarding the heritage and the future mission of The Salvation Army.

The green and red benches of Westminster’s twin houses are not the place for navy serge. Few of its members and support staff, though, were left in any doubt which flag Derek had firmly nailed to the mast.

For many onlookers, politics is a dirty business of leg-ups, back-stabbings and backhanders. Derek Foster, though, was living testament that it is possible to be godly in an ungodly world, to live gracefully under pressure — that a Salvationist can reach the top of their vocation without compromising Christian principles and practices.

During conversations with Derek, I was invariably challenged as to who would be the Army’s next MP. For many months, I agonised over whether I should be the one to try. It was not to be me. But who, I wonder, will be the next Salvationist MP?

“Derek sought me out, gave me his card and offered to help ‘in any way I can’. He was as good as his word.”

MAJOR BOVEY LIVES IN RETIREMENT IN EXMOUTH
**FEATURE**

**Debt advice**

It is unclear who first said money can’t buy happiness, but whoever it was probably wasn’t staring at a stack of bills and a low account balance. While financial stability may not trigger an endorphin rush, debt can reduce quality of living and wreak emotional havoc, causing the breakdown of relationships and health, loss of homes, depression, fear, anger and shame – and can sometimes lead to serious addiction problems or even suicide.

In 2007, The Salvation Army in the UK opened the doors of its first debt advice service (DAS) based in Dunstable, to provide free, professional, impartial and confidential advice to people struggling with their personal finances. Since then debt advice co-ordinators and volunteers across the UK and the Republic of Ireland have helped more than 4,000 people and today are supporting 531 dealing with more than £2 million of debt.

‘The idea for the service was born out of a vision within the Central South Division, where a number of corps officers noticed that there was a need for a service within their communities to help those experiencing debt,’ explains Financial Inclusion Development Manager Lorraine Cook (THQ). ‘More people were coming into the corps in need of a food bag, essential daily items or a gas and electricity top-up, which, yes, would last for two or three days, but it wasn’t fixing the underlying issue: debt.’

The Dunstable DAS centre opened – mostly in the evenings to accommodate the majority of its nine-to-five working clients – followed closely by Luton and Bedford. As a debt co-ordinator at Dunstable DAS, and having seen the great benefits of the service, Lorraine was asked to share the stories of success at THQ.

After a review of progress at the three centres, the decision was made to launch the services across the territory under Lorraine’s leadership working with Community Money Advice.

There are now 18 DAS centres across the territory where the day-to-day responsibilities of staff include helping clients maximise income and minimise expenditure, producing statements of income and expenditure, negotiating with creditors on clients’ behalf and proposing the most appropriate options for the client to become debt free.

However, it isn’t just about debt. ‘Financial inclusion is equally important, making sure that all people have access to and can effectively use the appropriate financial services they need to improve their lives,’ says Lorraine. ‘In terms of our services, that means doing things like visiting colleges, raising awareness and teaching clients about budgeting using...’
programmes like Life (Lessons in Financial Education), because we’re as much about preventing debt as we are about dealing with the problem.’

Debt advice is also being delivered in the homelessness sector. Employment Plus advisers are undergoing debt training and Lorraine is working with the THQ Enabling Mission Unit to explore ways in which teaching money skills to young people can be linked to Scripture – for example, tithing. DAS co-ordinators and corps officers or managers also have to attend the annual Best Practice conference for essential, ongoing training and development.

It is the combination of debt help alongside personal support that sets The Salvation Army’s DAS apart from other organisations, as Jim Burns, who’s been a volunteer for 12 years, explains: ‘While services like Citizens Advice Bureau offer advice about debt, they don’t have the facilities or the resources to do the rest.

‘We are often dealing with the most vulnerable people. Usually there’s a complicated story of how someone has got into debt: domestic abuse, family breakdown, financial abuse, mental health issues – all sorts of different reasons. So, while we’re getting the information about the debt, we’re also finding out about all sorts of things.

‘As well as signposting to other organisations we’re able to offer a wider service. Somebody may be in debt and literally have nothing in their pocket. We could offer vouchers for a food bank and commit to providing parcels for however long it takes people to get themselves sorted. Previously we have found clothes, beds and cookers for clients through our own corps resources. ‘Also we have time. We don’t just have an hour’s appointment and as the clock chimes they’re out the door. We never underestimate how difficult it is for people to make the first phone call or to cross the threshold to come and meet a stranger, so we take the time to listen.’

‘It is vital the service is accessible to people from different religions and backgrounds, so the team simply share their faith motivations with a client on their first visit and strive to show love and compassion, and to build friendships, inviting them to corps activities like Messy Church and Christmas lunch so they feel part of the corps community.

‘We try to avoid making people feel like clients by quickly establishing good relationships so they feel like they’ve come into a warm and welcoming place,’ says debt advice co-ordinator Fiona Simpson. ‘Sometimes that means tea and tissues rather than tackling their debt. We try to be aware of what a person is presenting – some need tough love and some need a real gentle approach.’

‘The support has led to endless transformative stories. Many clients have regained control of their lives, improving their physical and mental wellbeing. Some have gone on to own businesses and obtain degrees, gained confidence and developed new skills. Non-Christian volunteers, service users and their families have come to faith, becoming adherent members and soldiers and consequently taking part in corps programmes, and children have been dedicated to God.

‘I think that’s one of the best things. People become empowered,’ volunteer Paul Braithwaite enthuses. ‘We’re not doing all the work for them; we’re simply giving them a helping hand in their time of need.’

Lorraine insists the key to a successful DAS is the integration between its service, the corps programme and the overall mission of The Salvation Army. Before opening a centre, corps officers are required to complete a business plan considering why they want to set up a DAS, what services already exist and if they could partner them, who’s backing the launch at a local level and what will make their service different to ensure sustainability.

‘I do not apologise for asking for a business plan,’ says Lorraine. ‘From my perspective, we’re in the most important business on Earth. Why would we not want to get that right?

‘It is asked within the Army all the time: “There’s lots of need, so how can we as an organisation meet it all?” If done correctly, the DAS can meet multiple needs, but our advisers need the support of corps folk. We don’t want this service to be done in isolation. That doesn’t work. I believe if we sow a seed, God has the power to do the rest.’
**ROAD TO RECOVERY**

How The Salvation Army helped Priya and Sandy

In 2014, my husband, Sandy, had a brain haemorrhage; he suffered 50 per cent brain damage. He was so young and I really struggled to accept the situation. I lost all hope and became depressed. That’s when the money problems began.

Sandy was the sole financial provider and I was a fulltime mum at home with my two boys, then two and three years old. He was in hospital and then rehab recovering for nine months and we had no savings. The bills and letters from the creditors began piling up. I wasn’t sleeping and I didn’t know who to turn to. I was put in touch with Stroke Association and, realising I needed financial help, they referred me to The Salvation Army in Dunstable. Fiona and Jim visited my home and we started on the road to recovery – together.

I cried a lot at first but everyone was so supportive. It took a long time to fix everything but Fiona and Jim were there for me every step of the way. They spoke to creditors on my behalf, accompanied me to bank appointments, helped write off some debts and even helped to save my house! Every time we had an appointment they would give me some work to do. They taught me how to budget and realise what was a priority. When I fell short they would bring me food every two weeks from the food bank and helped with the kids’ school uniforms when I couldn’t afford it. They were amazing!

They didn’t just handle the paperwork either – they encouraged me a lot, reminding me I wasn’t alone. Imagine, I had no one to speak to, no one to ask me about my day, but Fiona would do that; she’d uplift me, congratulate me on doing things and tell me that I was great – she still does.

They made me feel like I was part of a community. My husband and I have no family here so when we were invited to have Christmas lunch we took the opportunity. Now we go to Messy Church every month and my kids have made new friends.

I have so much more confidence too. I never knew how to take the bus by myself and now I’m volunteering in a hospital as a playroom assistant and learning to drive. That’s how far they’ve brought me. It’s hard to put into words – words don’t do justice to explain everything they have done for me. I had no hope. I was stressed. Through those times you don’t remember your children, you only think about the problems. It was dark around me but Fiona and the team brought light into my life and encouraged me to carry on. I’m confident because I know someone is behind me. They are my friends, relatives, community – they are everything.
MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Ron Thomlinson considers the importance of being understood

HAVE you heard the one about the commissioner’s wife* who heckled a cadet while he was giving his testimony in the Westminster Central Hall? No? Then, if you are sitting comfortably, I’ll begin.

The Salvation Army equivalent of a motorway pile-up took place on Tuesday 3 November 1970, during A Day of Praise and Devotion led by General Erik Wickberg. The crash was, of course, never reported in any of the Army’s papers.

The meeting began at 10.45 am. The first skirmish between the 200 International Training College cadets in the gallery and the International Staff Band had already taken place. The cadets always tried to speed up the singing while the bandmaster seemed deliberately to slow it down. Score: ISB 1 – ITC 0.

The cadet chosen to testify was a New Zealander, Dr Murray Stanton, a member of the Royal College of Physicians. Murray was as handsome as he was intelligent. He was also quite conservative on matters of doctrine and biblical scholarship. He was any training principal’s choice to put in the spotlight.

Murray, who believed in honest testimony, began to speak about the challenges and difficulties he experienced when trying to communicate the gospel. One of his sessional friends, Harold Hill, also from New Zealand, noted in his diary that Murray’s words were, as usual, ‘thoughtful and well-considered’. Murray was just getting into his stride when the pile-up happened. From her place on the platform the commissioner’s wife rose to her feet.

Cadet Hill describes how she leapt to her feet just behind Murray waving her hand in the air as one should when delivering a word from the Lord: ‘Preach the blood, young man. Preach the blood!’ Murray’s wife, Janee, recalls her proclaiming: ‘Preach Christ and him crucified, young man!’ Murray was devastated. The congregation was in shock. A fearful stillness fell on the gathering. In his diary, Cadet Hill noted: ‘The episode was redeemed only by the fact that General Wickberg had asked General Coutts to pronounce the benediction. This he did, together with the inclusion of an excursus on the value of “honest doubt”, for which, among other things, we ought to give thanks.’

Eighteen months later, at 11 am on 13 May 1972, 30-year-old Captain Dr Murray Stanton was promoted to Glory from a hospital in India, just eight months after arriving in that country. It was the day of his seventh wedding anniversary to Janee, now left to raise their two young daughters, Julie and Catherine.

I still don’t have closure on that passionate, public protest 48 years ago. The commissioner’s wife and Murray Stanton had never met and had no long-running theological argument. In fact, they had much in common: their love for Jesus and their obedience to the divine call to be officers in William Booth’s Army. Both were known for their frugal lifestyle when it came to using Army money. To save the Army expense, the commissioner’s wife used her bus pass on public transport to visit IHQ’s women officers in need of pastoral care.

I have struggled to fathom what the reason for the outburst was. Perhaps it really was only about evangelical language. However, I cannot accept the idea that there is more spiritual power – akin to an evangelical magic – in one set of religious words over another. Whichever style we chose, the words are at best only poetry or pictures. Repetition of old and often much-loved phrases and songs never saved anyone.

Recently, I presented a workshop for Dutch dental receptionists who deal with migrants whose sole means of communication is poor English. What does it matter how competent a receptionist is in English if the migrant cannot understand her? A receptionist may use a second language perfectly but that is of no use to a patient who cannot understand the words.

The receptionists’ dilemma reflects our own difficulties as evangelists. Presenting Christ to our secular, multi-cultural, mass-media society in a way that people understand is a formidable task. And how we say it may matter as much as what we say. It is of the utmost importance that we are understood.

A much-loved Zimbabwean officer, Brigadier Lillian Nhari, once advised a young colleague worried about his lack of expertise in an African language: ‘Whatever the language of the tongue, it’s the language of the heart that people hear.’

*The incident took place in the days before married women officers held rank in their own right

RON LIVES IN THE NETHERLANDS
BE BOLD!

STUDY PASSAGE: ACTS 19:1–10

THE arm is raised, the finger points, and a voice speaks the words every candidate dreads: ‘You’re fired!’ Another hopeful falls in Lord Sugar’s search for an apprentice. Lord Sugar is not afraid to speak his mind; the words ‘I’ve heard enough!’ are usually followed by a scathing analysis of the failings of the candidates.

Reasons for dismissal include lack of sales, poor leadership or quarrelling among the team. The victim of the pointing finger may be working outside their competence, or even be an imposter who cannot demonstrate the skills listed on their CV. But for the one who survives the series of business challenges and boardroom encounters, the prize of £250,000 and a partnership with Lord Sugar could be life changing.

QUESTIONS
● Have you ever been offered the opportunity of a lifetime and why did you, or didn’t you, take it?
● In what area of knowledge or expertise are you able to speak boldly?
● How do you handle challenge to your knowledge or experience?

Lord Sugar’s boldness in challenging the candidates stems from a lifetime of single-minded devotion to business success. In his single-minded pursuit of the gospel, Paul encountered misguided believers, arrogant sceptics and outright imposters. Through his personal experience and his Jewish legal training he was able to challenge them boldly. For him the risks of offending were outweighed by the potential for a life-changing encounter with Jesus, the Messiah.

As we pick up the story in Acts 19 Paul has arrived in Ephesus, a seaport in decline. Its harbour was gradually silting up because of deforestation in the surrounding hillsides – so Paul travelled by ‘the road through the interior’ (v1).

On encountering some disciples, he asked a rather strange question: ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ (v2). To understand what was in Paul’s mind we need to consider how he viewed his own conversion: ‘God… was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles’ (Galatians 1:15 and 16).

Following Paul’s encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (see Acts 9) the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life was such that no one could doubt the reality of his relationship with Christ. Presumably he sensed something missing in the character of these professing Christians that indicated they had not had such an encounter.

QUESTIONS
● How would you compare your experience of Christ with Paul’s and are you as confident as Paul?
● What signs are there in your life of the Holy Spirit at work?

Further questioning revealed the disciples’ experience mirrored that of Apollos: they had received baptism based on the teaching of John the Baptist, not realising that he had pointed towards Jesus as the Messiah. In response to their puzzlement, Paul boldly proclaimed the full gospel to them and they gave dramatic evidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

In several of Paul’s letters he finds it necessary to challenge believers about their misunderstandings of the gospel, from reverting to Judaism to adopting mystical practices (see Philippians 3 and Colossians 2:8). Even today some Christians are misled by false or lopsided teachings, or are confused by past experiences, or simply have never grasped the fullness of life in Christ. Paul would urge more mature Christians to challenge these errors in love, for the benefit of the believer and the integrity of the gospel.

Through the week with Salvationist – a devotional thought for each day by Major Philippa Smale

SUNDAY

Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ John’s baptism,’ they replied.

(Acts 19:1–3)

MONDAY

I dare to ask the Spirit, come,/To match with power my heart’s desire,/My life to cleanse and energise/With mighty pentecostal fire.

(SASB 321)

TUESDAY

Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

(Acts 19:4 and 5)
**Wednesday**

To be like Jesus! This hope possesses me. In every thought and deed, This is my aim, my creed. To be like Jesus! This hope possesses me. His Spirit helping me. Like him I’ll be.

(ASB 328)

**Thursday**

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

(Acts 19:6 and 7)

**Friday**

Spread Calvary’s great salvation fame. Make every tongue a living flame. Soul-saving truth inspire. With zeal inflame thy fighting host. Baptise us with the Holy Ghost. And set us all on fire.

(ASB 322)

**Saturday**

‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

(Matthew 28:19 and 20)

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you have given us the commission to go and make disciples. Help us to be bold in the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out that great task.

**QUESTIONS**

- **Wednesday**
  - Do you know someone who is confused about what it really means to be a Christian?
  - How would you open the conversation to help them see the truth?
  - How can you be confident that you have the answer?

- **Thursday**
  - Which error are you most likely to fall into?
  - How might you test to see if someone is receptive?
  - How might you combat an initial negative response?
  - Have you ever outstayed your welcome with an unbeliever?

- **Friday**
  - Where are there people around you or your church who might be interested in hearing the gospel?
  - How might you go about contacting them or breaking the ice?

- **Saturday**
  - Which error are you most likely to fall into?
  - How might you test to see if someone is receptive?
  - How might you combat an initial negative response?
  - Have you ever outstayed your welcome with an unbeliever?
HUDDERSFIELD: Abi Ekundayo was enrolled as a soldier and Tamara Mogey welcomed as an adherent member by corps officers Majors Adrian and Christine Lee. Abi, who was born into a Muslim family, made the decision to commit her life to Christ. Tamara, who first came to the corps as a university student on placement, says she found God at The Salvation Army. Divisional leaders Lieut-Colonels Mike and Lynn Highton led the meeting and welcomed Abi and Tamara into the corps fellowship. The divisional leaders and corps officers are pictured with Abi and Tamara. – C. L.

BASINGSTOKE: After persistent pressure from a friend inviting her to meetings, Pat Collis eventually gave in and felt as if she had ‘come home’ and had found a family that welcomed and supported her. Having been an adherent member for a number of years, Pat felt God calling her to take a further step on her Christian journey and was enrolled as a soldier by corps officer Lieutenant Rob Westwood-Payne. – R. W-P.

DONCASTER: After a spiritual journey lasting six years, Hazel Mann was enrolled as a soldier on Commitment Sunday by corps officer Major Jane Cowell. Hazel chose the song ‘I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky’ (SASB 1002), especially for the words of the chorus. Pictured are Nigel and Celia Saunby, Lesley Robertson, Julie Mitchell, Hazel and Captains Ruth and Peter Hammond. – C. W.

EDMONTON: Having attended meetings since December 2017, Nyarai Masvosva was enrolled as a soldier by corps officers Lieutenants Dawn and Glenn Roden. Nyarai testified that she had always considered The Salvation Army her spiritual home, even when she lived in Zimbabwe, explaining that her walk with the Lord had taken a different path to the one she had envisaged. While at the corps she has found new hope, and her relationship with God has been reignited. Also pictured is Corps Secretary David Siyamachira. – G. R.

SHIPLEY: Corps officer Major Mike Harris enrolled Jessica Dyson, Anna Stannett, Abby Burnett and Annabelle Ives as junior soldiers. Sam Phillips is pictured holding the flag. – M. H.

PENGE: Rubie Gorin-Jones and Adam Woodgate were enrolled as soldiers by Adam’s father, Major Ian Woodgate (DHQ). Rubie testified to experiencing God at Connect, an event held at William Booth College. She says that God has made something beautiful out of her life and now seeks to honour him with it. Adam was challenged during the visit of General Brian Peddle to the South London Division last year and, through parental guidance and fellow Christians, feels that becoming a soldier is an appropriate response to God’s call in his life. – P. R.
MUSIC WITH WHAT MESSAGE?

NOW that Army bands have played the last carol, perhaps it is time to reflect on those carols that portray the real meaning of Christmas. There has been previous debate regarding some of the ‘carols’ in New Christmas Praise, and now the latest issue, Christmas Collection, includes many songs that are regarded as standard fare for this time of year.

In supermarkets, town centres or wherever, folk will be familiar with songs they’ve heard on the radio or television, and as far as they are concerned, that is the Christmas message. However, the inclusion of a tune in this latest book is questionable. I refer to No 103, ‘While Shepherds Watched’, with the tune ‘Cranbrook’ in brackets. This is, of course, the Yorkshire ‘anthem’, ‘On Ilkla Moor Baht’at’. Those folk in Yorkshire will know that the song refers to a fellow courting Mary Jane on Ilkley Moor without his hat on. Listeners to our bands ought to be amazed that this tune will be played among such traditional, real carols such as ‘Silent Night’, ‘O Come, All Ye Faithful’, etc.

HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS

I ALWAYS get so much more than I give when helping at Winton Salvation Army’s Monday night drop-in for people experiencing homelessness. Between 40 and 50 men and women passed through our doors this evening, receiving a hot meal, drinks, clothes, foot-care, haircuts and showers.

WONDERFUL TRIBUTE

IN 1967 my wife and I had to take a break in our officer service to care for family and we soldiered at Paisley Citadel just as the old building was being demolished; the corps used a nearby school for its meetings.

The school caretaker became a Christian and, along with his wife and two children, joined the corps. Stewart Campbell, the son, then married and with his wife now soldiers at Ayr. His sister still soldiers at Paisley.

The large crowd that gathered for the Paisley corps anniversary last year will not forget Stewart’s wonderful singing of ‘Love Changes Everything’ with band accompaniment, but how many will know the story of how the Army’s move to the school led to his father’s conversion? To us it was a wonderful tribute!

WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR HOLINESS

IN a recent issue Lieut-Colonel David Kelly (THQ) suggested we might have stopped imagining where we can go or what and who we can become. This was quickly followed by a letter giving the assurance that at least one London corps is already accomplishing all that the colonel hoped for.

I have a different concern. What, if anything, has replaced the holiness meeting across the territory?

I consider it a privilege to be a soldier at the nearest Army corps, some five miles from where I live. Our service to the community is outstanding — many activities every weekday, a charity shop, band visits to hospitals and retirement homes, more than 1,000 Christmas parcels handed out, etc.

But like the vast number of UK corps, I assume, there is only one Sunday meeting: 90 minutes into which praise, prayer, contributions from band, songsters and worship group, children’s story (before they leave for their own meeting), Bible reading and sermon all have to be squeezed.

In 2015 a specially chosen small group of people produced our new songbook. Despite making room for new worship songs, they were inspired to include 261 songs under the heading Holiness — a quarter of the total. While they comprise a priceless treasury for private devotion, I fear few of them will have been sung over the past year.

The new songbook also restates our doctrines, including belief in whole sanctification for all — surely this requires some specific facility for collective meditation, including holiness songs.

We are increasingly effective in all aspects of outreach but we must also cater for individual spiritual growth. However pleasing, it will not be achieved by an exclusive diet of praise.

Readers sending letters by email should include their name, full rank if applicable and full postal address.

Write to Salvationist (Letters),
101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN or email salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk

Malcolm High,
Major,
Stoke-on-Trent

Denis Fothergill,
Hale

Carolyn Bennett,
Winton

Alan Bowd, Abertillery

Keith Ingham,
Captain
Briston

Helen Jollands,
Pastoral Assistant

Salvationist 26 January 2019
ARMY PEOPLE

APPOINTED
Effective 1 April
- Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant, Secretary for Communications, THQ
- Lieut-Colonel Eirwen Pallant, Assistant Secretary for Personnel, Administration, Family and Health, THQ (Lieut-Colonels Dean and Eirwen Pallant succeed Lieut-Colonels David and Naomi Kelly, who are taking up appointments in the USA Eastern Territory as Training Principal and Assistant Principal for Ministry Development, respectively)

LOCAL OFFICERS APPOINTED
- BM Jim McIvor, Kilbirnie
- CSM Coral McMullen, Brechin

DEDICATED TO GOD
- Lucy, daughter of Martin and Rachel Poynter, at Wellingborough by Major Michelle Woodhouse

BEREAVED
- Rtd Songster Ldr Derek Deacon, Wellingborough, of his wife Betty, Elaine Strickle, Julie Ablett and Andrew Deacon of their mother
- Rtd BM Brian Sanders, Wellingborough, of his wife Margaret, Alan Sanders, David Sanders and Alison Dickins of their mother
- Eva Willis, Poole, Colonel Gordon Swansbury and Muriel Hatfield, Belleville, Canada, of their sister Rtd HLS Olive White, Christine Christopher and Sharon Collett, both Boscombe, of their mother
- Iris Clark, Midsomer Norton, of her husband Edward
- Sam Bryce, Peterborough Citadel, of his wife Joyce, Kenneth, Karen and Alison of their mother
- BM Keith Johnston, Edinburgh Gorgie, of his mother Marion Johnston
- Gwendoline Wyatt, Torquay, of her husband Danny
- Major Carole Grinsted and Jim Burns of their mother Jean Burns

PROMOTED TO GLORY
- Leslie Clouston, Dudley
- Songster Hilda Slydel, Southsea

TRIBUTES
MURIEL DIXON, GATESHEAD
Muriel was a fourth-generation Salvationist at Gateshead. Her family were her life as she had two sons, a grandson and two great-grandsons. A seamstress by trade, Muriel also helped out in the family grocery shop. She was the home league secretary and her husband was young people’s sergeant-major.

Muriel loved to sing in the songsters and attend Sunday meetings, regularly playing an important role in the life of the corps.

She kept in touch with her family and friends by texts and phone calls, but in the last couple of years she was ill and unable to continue this. After several spells in hospital she was called Home aged 88.

Servant of God, well done! – M. D.

IRIS THORPE, NORTHAMPTON
IRIS attended Sunday school in Northampton from an early age and remained a soldier throughout her life.

She taught herself to play the piano and could play by ear, a talent put to good use through her many years of service at the Army.

During her Salvation Army life she was a singing company member, sunbeam, guard, Sunday school teacher, songster, singing company sergeant and assistant corps cadet guardian, and sold the War Cry in pubs.

More recently she was the over-60 choir leader and arranged speakers for the meetings.

Iris gave her love, talents and time to all she came in contact with, witnessed by the fact that more than 230 people attended her funeral. – N. R.

ROBERT HOLMES, LAVENHAM
PRouD to have been born and bred in Lavenham, Rob was active in the corps as a keen first cornet player – often taking solo parts – as singing company leader and as deputy songster leader. Even when this was no longer the case, he took a keen interest in all that was going on.

Rob was a good son to Beryl and helped her in many ways. He will be remembered for helping with the Carnival Songs of Praise, which began in 1991.

Rob’s gentle ways, and his willingness to do what he could to help others, was a testimony to his Christian upbringing. Servant of God, well done! – L. P.

OLIVE WHITE, POOLE
OLIVE May White (née Swansbury) was the longest serving member of the corps. The daughter of Salvation Army officers, much of Olive’s inspirational ministry was realised through the home league, which she led for more than 38 years and continued to attend until shortly before her promotion to Glory.

When Olive’s husband was promoted to Glory in 2005, after 58 years of marriage, her strong faith enabled her to continue Army activities while making an impact on the lives of many people.

Her two daughters and sons-in-law, Christine and Tony, and Sharon and

ENGAGEMENTS

GENERAL BRIAN PEDDLE AND COMMISSIONER ROSALIE PEDDLE: • ICO, Sun 10
THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF (COMMISSIONER LYNDON BUCKINGHAM) AND COMMISSIONER BRONWYN BUCKINGHAM: • ICO (farewell to session), Fri 15 Feb
THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER (COMMISSIONER ANTHONY COTTLER) AND COMMISSIONER GILLIAN COTTLER: • Swanwick (pioneer gathering), Mon 4 Feb
• Leicester (Central East divisional retreat), Mon 11 – Wed 13 • Hoddesdon (divisional leaders consultation day), Fri 15 • Harlow, Sun 17 • Poole (Youth Makes Music), Fri 22
THE CHIEF SECRETARY (COLONEL LEE GRAVES) AND COLONEL DEBORAH GRAVES:
• Scotland council, Th 7 Feb * • Poole (Youth Makes Music), Fri 22
*Chief Secretary only
Martin, cherished Olive. She also played a significant part in bringing up her grandchildren, Edward, Matthew and Emma, who loved her dearly. She recently welcomed a great-granddaughter, Grace Olivia.

Olive ensured she had a ‘life well lived’ and her influence, her positivity and sunny nature, remain. – C. C.

LILIAN COOK, CLACTON
A LIFELONG Salvationist, Lilian was born in Clacton in 1927 and grew up with her siblings Les, Gladys and Kath.

She was talented and modest, living out the words: ‘Life and time and talents, Jesus, take them all.’

Apart from wartime evacuation, Lilian was totally involved in corps activities. Enrolled as a soldier in 1942, she held many roles including company guard for 54 years, assistant corps cadet guardian, cub mistress, assistant singing company leader, songster, timbrel group member, collector for the annual appeal and meals on wheels driver.

In 1950 Lilian married Ernie, a bandsman from Bristol. Lilian was elegant, enthusiastic, energetic, supportive and adventurous. She ran her own business, visited her daughter in Australia and worked in the corps community shop until she was 88 years old. She enjoyed all aspects of life, but, above all, maintained her Christian faith. – C. H.

JOAN MARTIN, NEWCASTLE CITY TEMPLE
JOAN was born into a Salvationist family in Yeovil in 1921. After school she worked as a hairdresser. At the outbreak of war she joined the Women’s Land Army, where she met and subsequently married Don, who was serving in the military nearby. After the war she became a housewife and, later, mother to Richard.

The Salvation Army played a big part in family life and she became home league secretary and ran the over-60 club.

After retirement Don and Joan moved to the North East to support Richard and attended Newcastle City Temple, where they quickly became part of the corps family.

In 2012 Don was promoted to Glory and Joan had to draw on her deep faith to face life without her soulmate. She eventually moved into sheltered accommodation and attended the corps until ill-health made transportation difficult.

She has gone to be with the Lord and her beloved Don. – B. I.

Please note that soldiers’ and adherent members’ tributes submitted for publication should be no longer than 150 words. Good quality pictures will be included with tributes. Please do not send your copy to any individual’s email address as this could delay publication. Copy should be sent to salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk
BARBARA KENDALL
Service Centre Manager,
Glasgow Service Centre

How did you first come into contact with the Army?
As a young Christian I became friends with a Salvationist at Peterhead Academy. Her invitation to attend Fraserburgh Corps in North Scotland was my first taste of Salvation Army worship. I instantly felt a warm sense of welcome and belonging.

What made you want to work for the Army?
After 16 years as Salvation Army officers, our need as a family to put down roots prompted a move towards other spheres of service. For me, this led to undertaking a degree in social work, working in various statutory social work settings, managing a Church of Scotland learning disability service and then a return to The Salvation Army as Divisional Director for Community Services, West Scotland.

What is the most interesting thing about your role?
Working with personnel from various departments and hearing stories from frontline settings.

... and the most frustrating?
Trying to promote the service centre so it is recognised as an integral part of our mission.

What is your favourite food?
Fish of any kind. My Peterhead heritage lives on, as this was my staple diet growing up.

What is your favourite kind of holiday?
My favourite holidays are in rural, picturesque settings such as the Lake District or Cornwall.

What was the first record, tape or CD that you ever owned?
‘Puppy Love’ by Donny Osmond or ‘Bye, Bye, Baby’ by the Bay City Rollers. (I know, cringe!)

What is your favourite Bible verse?
'I can do all this through him who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:13), or as The Message paraphrases it: 'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.'

If you had to be handcuffed to one person for a day, who would it be?
My mum and dad. I know that's two, but they were such strong, positive influences on who I am today.

Which book would you want on a desert island?
Any novel with a Cornish twist – I just love that part of the world!

If you had an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?
Coffee – proper coffee! And a little chocolate thrown in for good measure!

What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
Remember your first impressions, as you very quickly get used to things that you initially considered out of place or less than acceptable.

What do you consider to be the most valuable thing you own?
My faith and the perspective it gives me on life.

Something interesting you might want to know about me is...
I have a large extended family. My mum was one of seven children, as was my dad, so I have numerous relatives. And my mum’s maiden name is Booth, so who knows who I might be related to!