



## **The Salvation Army - William Booth Memorial Halls Nottingham**

### **Newsletter June 2020**

I bring you greetings from the leadership team and the fellowship at WBMH. In these very challenging times, I trust that you are finding that God is continuing to be a source of provision in so many ways. The spring has been a clear declaration of his greatness and power. This newsletter is intended to provide encouragement and aid your thinking around Corps life and spiritual matters as we enter a new phase in the coronavirus crisis and look to the immediate and short term future.

We have just celebrated Pentecost. My bible study lately took me to Acts Ch. 9 and the experience of Ananias. It is worth a read and further study. Here was a man who was asked by God to do something which would put him beyond his comfort zone. He was to approach Saul (then well known as a harsh persecutor of Christians) and be an agent of the Lord's in restoring Saul's sight, temporarily taken from him by God on the Damascus road. Ananias said to God in answer to his call, "Yes, Lord" (v.9 NIV), or "Here I am"(CEV). However, to paraphrase, he also said, 'Are you sure it's me you want?', clearly wary of the risks he perceived were involved in the task ahead. I wonder if you are feeling a specific call from God but a similar question is holding you back from responding positively?

Talking of responding to God's call we look to the departure of Chelsea Huddlestone to the SA Training College for Officers in September. We will recognise Chelsea's farewell on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The format will be decided nearer the time. We are so pleased that Chelsea has followed the example of Ananias and others in being willing to accept the call of the Lord in this way.

We are also pleased to confirm that our new Commanding Officers, Majors Robert and Julia Jepson, with their daughters Emily and Alice, will join us in the latter part of July to take up their appointments at WBMH. We await their arrival with huge anticipation. The installation of our new leaders is scheduled for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July. We do not know the exact form of recognition to be given in the current circumstances, however we will be advised and will communicate further when possible. Our leaders begin their formal ministry in the early part of August.

Linking together my comments about Ananias, Chelsea's farewell and the arrival of Majors Robert and Julia, I wonder what God is calling you to do in Christian service at this time? The Majors will be delighted if folk will seize the moment to say, 'Here I am' and (despite natural concerns) declare availability and willingness to step up as we together seek to go forward in work and ministry. The Corps needs people to engage in sometimes challenging

Kingdom work. Much is being done, however there is a great deal more which lies ahead. The recent lockdown is likely to produce consequences where physical, spiritual and emotional needs of significant magnitude will require an alert and responsive church in our city and beyond. We each have our own personal challenges, however the Founder`s simple call to “OTHERS” may well be very resonant in these days.

Once again, on the subject of accepting God`s call and responding positively, I can confirm that the following leadership appointments within our Corps are taking effect on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June;

Corps Youth Secretary/ Youth team leader - Richard Ellis

Bandmaster - Paul Cuthbert

Deputy Bandmaster- Martyn Page

Due to current circumstances, formal commissions will be given in due course, however we have needed to take these steps now to ensure that our progress in mission is maintained and we appreciate the assistance of DHQ staff in helping to make this possible. On behalf of you all, I express gratitude to Elaine Huddleston for her valued work as assistant Corps Youth Secretary, to Richard for sterling service as Bandmaster and to Paul who moves from Deputy Bandmaster back into the role he had prior to Richard`s spell as Bandmaster. I should say that in line with today`s appointments policy for SA Local Officers the commissions will be for three years and then reviewable. As a Corps we will continue to look for new people of all ages to assume responsibilities and renew the work of the Kingdom. I repeat, what is God asking of you at this time?

“Take me, mould me, use me, fill me, I give my life to the Potter`s hand,  
CALL ME, guide me, lead me, walk beside me, I give my life to the Potter`s hand.” (SASB 355)

My own passion in these days is mission. This is within both our Corps (we must look after our own spiritual health) and in the city. During recent weeks and months we have continued to build effective relationships with other SA leaders in and around Nottingham. This has been particularly helpful in terms of meeting community needs in relation to food and also in other practical ways. Space does not permit more detail, however be assured that we are outward facing despite the closure of our hall. Please pray for our centres in Arnold, Meadows, Sneinton and Aspley. Also those such as Long Eaton and Stapleford, just on the city boundaries. Great work is going on in Nottingham churches too. Praise Him!!

Please pray for yourselves and all of the above developments in our fellowship. Ask God to hold us firmly together and prevent any from losing faith at this tough time. Continue to ask God to uphold, strengthen and comfort those we have very much in our hearts and minds within our Corps family. Those bereaved, ill and facing particularly tough circumstances. Loneliness, fear, family concerns. Give thanks for all blessings and for His great faithfulness. Our Online ministry continues on Sundays at 10.30 am. The informal Sunday Zoom fellowship takes place at 11.30 am. Please ask CS Sharon page for further access details if required.

Thank you to all who minister and care in so many ways. Let us continue to go in the strength of the Lord and with the authority of our Lord Jesus.

Kevin Pallister (Corps Mission Secretary/ Acting Corps Sergeant Major)