

# REVELATIONS

**The newsletter for The Salvation Army Risca Corps**

*Issue: February 2002*

*As flowers long for sunshine and as deserts thirst for rain  
That's how much a father longs to keep his child from pain.  
That's not how life happens still I hope that you will see  
That I am never far away while you're a part of me.*

*You're my child and together we can make a dream.  
Though tomorrow may seem far away.  
You're my child though at times it seems so hard for you to know.  
Just how far love will go  
Oh, it's strong enough to reach across the years  
Through the joys, though the tears, you're my child*

*With words I've said I love you to express the way I feel.  
But the scars can run so deep that words alone can't heal  
The joy in our tomorrow's rest in finding Christ today  
And then our happiness is found each time we hear him say...  
You're my child...*

**CS Pam Brill** was asked to share with us her favourite song...

'I have many favourite songs. It is very hard to decide which one I should write. The above is the one I have decided upon. In one of the write-ups on the CD cover the song appears on it states that it is a sensitive ballad. Reminiscent of the apostle Paul's assertion that nothing will '...separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus...' The song speaks of intimacy without slushiness and love without limit.'

**'Look, I make everything new'  
Revelations 21: 5**

## *Captains Robert and Julia Jepson...*

JULIA and I are very grateful to the corps for the opportunity to get some decorating done at the quarters before the patter of "tiny feet" arrives in May. With this opportunity has come the challenge of choosing the colour schemes and trying to keep everything co-ordinated. Making the decisions has been very hard, as we both have had different ideas and opinions. We have finally succeeded and reached agreement at least on the colour for the baby's room! (it's called "hip hip hooray") We have joked and said it would have been easier if we were given no choice on the matter.

But as we know life is full of choices and God presents us all with some to deal with in our own spiritual lives from time to time. Remember the story of the Rich Young Man found in Marks Gospel Chapter 10? He would have been a much happier guy if he had chosen to give up his wealth and riches. He should have made the decision to put Christ above everything in his life, but made the wrong choice. We know from the story that choosing what Jesus had in mind for him would have been the best to gain spiritual blessings.

During this New Year, 2002, many choices will come our way as a Church and making Christ inspired decisions will be our positive way forward. We have set ourselves objectives that will help to progress church growth here at Risca and we believe that Jesus is at the heart of these plans. We all now have the choice to move with Him and to give our practical support and prayer to bring these plans into reality. The film Jerry Maguire reminds us of the importance of loyalty .As those lines are spoken " Who will go with me" Jerry realises that only one person, from his corrupt firm, will go with him to start something new, better and integral. Jesus calls us to follow Him and his will for us as a Corps. Will you go with Him on this mission?

With so many exciting opportunities planned, like The Alpha Course set for October, a Corps Retreat in November, songs of praise evenings, special events and a 24/1 prayer event we're confident that the Holy Spirit will continue his work through us.

We are heading in the right direction and if we can continue to love each other and seek the guidance of God we will be a church that will continue to be progressive and relevant.

May God Bless You  
With Love

## *Parent and Toddlers...by Pam Parnell*

PARENT and Toddlers started at the Army many years ago (about 20 I think) and Beryl and Joyce ran the one, which is still going on Tuesday morning for many years very successfully.

I have been involved with Parent and Toddlers now for about five years, and took over as Leader just before Majors Disney left last year. Julie and I ran it until September together with Julia and then Kim came on board to do some craft things with the children, which had gone down very well with both the children and their parents. Claire and/or Phyllis also come to help in the kitchen as and when they can, to make the toast, squash, tea etc and wash up, as Julie can now only stay for the first hour as she then has to go to work.

We have on average about 15 children most weeks, and this is a nice number to cope with. They enjoy playing with the toys while their Mums (and often Dads too) chat together in an informal atmosphere. We always try to find the time to have a chat with some of the parents and try to encourage good relationships between us, with the hope that we may be able to integrate them into the Army family through inviting them to attend such things as the YP Anniversary etc and maybe for the children to take a small part in the meeting.

We always have a Christmas Party on the last week that we operate in December which the children enjoy very much, and to which Father Christmas pays a visit to hand out a present to each child.

In the summer we have a trip out either to the zoo or the seaside, which is always very popular (whatever the weather!!), and in November last year we had a shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway and IKEA, which proved very popular.

During the next year we hope to be able to do some fundraising to enable us to buy some new toys to replace some that are getting a bit past it and to give the children more scope for their imaginations. So, if anyone has any good ideas on what 0-3 year olds would be able to do – please let us know and we would be delighted to take any ideas on board.

## *The YP...*

In 2002 I can't wait for my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday which is on the 6 February.

The best thing about Christmas 2001 is that I had a drum kit.

My Christmas was good because I had lots of presents and lots of chocolate and my best present was me bike.

Last year I went on holiday to France. We went on a boat and we stayed in a caravan, we had a good time, and we went with our friends. Also last year I moved house and I had a new bedroom.

This Christmas 2001 I turned 10, which means I'm 'double figures'. The best part of Christmas was when we sang Silent Night with candle light. The other part was the celebration of Jesus birthday, which means a lot to everyone. But the phrase I had to remember was that the best thing is to give not receive and always say thank you.

The best thing last year was when I had a special moment with God in Junior Camp. It made me very, very emotional and I was crying for the shock for about an hour. But then a boy called Phraser prayed for me at dinner time.

Last Christmas was fun. I had all the things I asked for. My best present was new FILA trainers (which cost £45). We had a nice Christmas dinner even though I didn't eat it all.

My hope this year is that the world can be a much kinder place than the world has been in 2001 with the wars and the event on September the 11<sup>th</sup> that upset a lot of people that was related.

Last Christmas was alright. I had a mug which fell apart when I opened it, new WWF coat and a remote car.

## **Congratulations to:**

- ❑ **Nathan Browning** has passed his Grade 4 Percussion (distinction) with full marks for general musicianship
- ❑ **Natalie Browning** has passed her Grade 3 Tenor Horn
- ❑ **Deryk Durrant** on his promotion to Infrastructure Manager at HSBC

## **Corps Mission Statement:**

No comments or suggestions regarding the mission statement have been received following the December 2001 newsletter.

## **Dates for your diary:**

Feb	10	Launch of Self Denial Missionary Appeal
Feb	15	Candlelight Jazz Banquet at Risca Tickets available from Pam Parnell - £6 each
March	1	World Day of Prayer
March	2	YP Coffee Morning at Risca
March	2-3	Powerhouse – Celebration, Princess Theatre, Port Talbot With Chief of the Staff and Commissioner Freda Larsson
March	3	Self Denial Altar Services
March	8-9	24/1 Prayer Event (includes a youth sleep over prayer event at the hall )
March	10	Mothers Day
March	16	Divisional Adult, Family, Community Care Ministries Conference
March	22	Ecumenical Lent Bible Study at Risca, 7-30pm
March	23	Territorial Youth Rally
March	24	Palm Sunday March of Witness, commencing at Clyde Street Pentecostal Church, 2-15pm for a 2-30pm start
March	28	Maundy Thursday Service, 7-15pm
March	29	Good Friday Service at 7-15pm
April	6-7	Cannock Band at Risca
April	14	Junior Soldiers Day of Renewal
April	20	Spring Concert at Newbridge Leisure Centre
April	21-22	Home League Weekend
April	25	Bandmaster Stephen Cobb with Risca Band
May	3-6	Roots
May	24	Commissioning
June	15-16	YP Anniversary
July	7	Annual Service at Bethany Baptist Church, Risca, 6-15pm With the Archbishop of Wales
Oct	26-27	Risca Band at Cannock
Nov	1-3	Corps Retreat, venue tbc
Nov	2	Day with God & Farewell to General, London Arena
Dec	4	Carol Concert, RFH, London tbc

**Candlelight Jazz Banquet** to be held on Friday 15 February will take the form of a corps meal to help raise funds and an event to invite friends along to. Ian's Jazzy Giants, Julia's big bro Phil Wall, Margs Huge Feast and the regeneration Cocktail bar 'Atmospheric'.

## ***Bandmaster Ian Browning...***

WELL, another year has started and Risca Salvation Army Band looks forward to new challenges and opportunities for music ministry.

I would ask you all to continue to pray for the Band during this coming year, with particular emphasis on the engagements listed below which cover the first four months of this year:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 24 March  | Palm Sunday March of Witness   |
| 6-7 April | Band Weekend (special guests are Cannock Band)                               |
| 20 April  | Spring Concert with Mynyddislwyn Male Choir<br>(at Newbridge Leisure Centre) |
| 25 April  | Visit of Bandmaster Stephen Cobb to rehearsal                                |

There are many, many people named in the New Testament whose lives were dramatically changed by having physically met with Jesus, such as the disciples, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the blind beggar, the ten who were healed of leprosy and so on.

I would ask that, in your prayers, you will ask God to send people to come and listen to the Band who really do need their lives changed by Jesus, and pray that they will spiritually meet Him and claim Him as their Saviour. The disciples met Jesus and the world changed. Just imagine what a better world we would be in today if only our friends and family had their lives changed by Him. Can I ask that, as well as praying; you actually invite one of your family and friends to come to a meeting at our church? The Band will continue to provide music that will aid worship and also allow you all to meditate the various messages God can give you through the music ministry of the Band.

The Band's musical repertoire for 2002 is available for you to look at. Please request a copy from myself or any of the Bandsmen. If you have a particular piece of music you would like the Band to play then do not hesitate to contact me. Your support to the Band is very much valued. Thank you for all you do.

Psalm 18:30 confirms that *'...As for God, His way is perfect; the world of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him...'*

Please remember to keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep reading the word and...keep praying!

God bless you.



# Prayer Spot

*The prayer of a person living right with God  
is something powerful to be reckoned with. (James 5)*

WE would like to endorse all that was written by Sarah last month and commend her thoughts and prayers.

- The visit of Cannock Band to Risca
- South and Mid Wales Divisional Youth Band
- Our thoughts are with Chancellor Gordon and Mrs Brown on the loss of their first baby daughter
- Our roving Prime Minister in his efforts to diffuse the threat of a nuclear war between Pakistan and India. We pray that this will not happen
- Our corps here at Risca. That we may love each other and seek to praise God for the opportunity and privilege of service and prayer for His Kingdom
- The following young people who are sitting the membership information classes: Carolyn Parker, Amy Hawkins, Paula Gibbs, Matthew Gibbs and Matthew Jenkins

*The prayers have been submitted by  
Uncle Max and Aunty Mae*

# *Captain Julia Jepson...*

## **Home League News**

WE are looking for volunteer drivers that could pick up four ladies from Silver Street on Monday afternoons for Home League at 2.30pm, and then to be taken home at 4.15 pm after Home League. Drivers are needed due to the birth of our baby. If there were more than one driver a rota basis could be set up. This will be needed from around the beginning of April till approximately end of June. Please see Captain Julia if you can help in this way. Thank you very much.

Our Home Leagues are held at Cwmcarn 3pm and Risca SA Hall 6pm. On the first Monday of every month we have a joint meeting at Cwmcarn with a special speaker. Please come and join us at either of the Home Leagues we will be very pleased to see you.

## **Prayer Journal**

PRAYER meetings will commence on 20 January 2002 from 4.45 – 5.15 pm at the hall on Sunday evenings. A prayer journal will be used for this, which will be left in the foyer on the middle table. Please use this for any prayer requests that you have for yourself or on behalf of others. It can also be used for sharing answers to prayers so that in our prayer time we may offer prayers of thanksgiving.

If you would like a prayer card to be sent to anyone to let them know that we have prayed for them, please indicate this in the column 'By whom' and leave their name and address.

We know that '*prayer changes things*', so please support and participate as you can for our prayer meetings.

## **Christmas Food Parcels**

ONE of the real highlights for me at Christmas was doing the food parcels. I have always thought that this is an important part of the Christmas spirit, giving to those who are in need. As Robert and I went shopping for the food in ASDA I'm sure many thought we were feeding the 5,000! The day we put the parcels together a team of six helped out enthusiastically and we really had a lot of fun. When it came to delivering the parcels we each had a story to tell, everyone was so grateful and pleased that the Salvation Army had thought of them in this way. There were large families, single parents, teenage mothers with babies, and teens living on their own. All contacts had come through the Social Services and other agencies. As Robert and I delivered one parcel on Christmas Eve, a woman nervously opened the front door. When we explained who we were and she saw the parcel her eyes lit up with excitement and immense gratitude, she hugged me as if I had given her a priceless jewel. Her nine-year-old son then appeared at the door, eyes like saucers and shook our hands whilst exclaiming words of thanks. When we got home, we checked the answer phone, only to hear the same woman with a hoarse voice from crying once again thank us; it really would be a special Christmas for them after all.

**'Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time, Christmas is a time to love'**

Christmas is indeed priceless – the Saviour of the World who brings hope to a sometimes dark world is born.

## *FINANCES...by CT Margaret Gregory*

THE finance of the corps has improved greatly over the past few months, mainly because of the fact that many of our corps has taken on board the fact that everything we own is a direct gift from God.

Running our corps is an expensive business and in the near future we have, by law, got to update the toilets, renew the kitchen and replace the computer, which is causing major headaches when it comes to doing the books.

A word of explanation about the Silver Tree Service. It was designed so people could use their talents throughout the year and present them. It replaced the Sale of Work. Last year nearly £1,300 was raised for which we thank you. Many more could be involved with this venture. We are always open to ideas to raise funds and any help would be greatly appreciated.

This month we are holding a three course meal with cabaret and an after dinner speaker. We are hoping you will bring your friends (or enemies) and support. There will be 60 places and these are on a first come first serviced basis.

We have recently just celebrated Christmas and were reminded that wise men brought gifts and worshipped Jesus.

Wise men still do!



# ***CORPS OBJECTIVES***

- ❑ To hold a 24/1 prayer event
- ❑ To commence a prayer meeting
- ❑ To hold a corps retreat
- ❑ To set up soldier information seminars
- ❑ To look for leaders in the corps
- ❑ To increase the number attending the bible class
- ❑ To hold a community volunteers Sunday worship service
- ❑ To hold community children's holiday club
- ❑ To commence the Alpha Course
- ❑ To produce a new welcome pack for newcomers to the church
- ❑ To produce a new publicity leaflet
- ❑ To set up a cabaret and meal to invite friends to
- ❑ To provide children's activity sheets for the meetings
- ❑ To aim towards seeing ten people return back to the corps worship services
- ❑ To hold four songs of praise meetings throughout the year, designed for inviting the unchurched
- ❑ To set up a local charity shop for the corps
- ❑ To set up new strategy plans for our community outreach and youth programme
- ❑ To provide training courses for leaders
- ❑ To raise £500 through a musical evening
- ❑ To locate a site and build new worship and community complex by year 2007 for Risca
- ❑ To see 120 people worshipping on average every Sunday here at our church

## **PAKISTAN**

PHYLLIS Browning, has received the following email from Commissioner Helen Clifton of the Pakistan Territory, in response to receiving parcels from the corps here in Risca, which was initiated by Phyllis...

*'...two wonderful parcels arrived today, again in perfect condition. This means that twice we have received two parcels out of three.*

*Never mind, the others may yet come - there have been delays in the mail over Christmas and sometimes a lot comes at once after a delay of some time.*

*We are so grateful to you for these beautiful items, which are a gift of love to the officers who will receive them. Two babies were born to officers in recent weeks - a little boy in Islamabad and a baby girl in Sahiwal City (born on Christmas Eve). Your prayers are requested for Captain Magdalene Emmanuel, also in Islamabad, who is in hospital waiting for the arrival of her third child, and Captain Jennifer Qaiser, here at THQ, who will have a Caesarean Section.*

*These are tense times for the people of India and Pakistan and we are praying for peace to prevail. People here are a little anxious because of the political situation and to receive gifts like this brings them real encouragement and cheer.*

*God bless you and all the people at Risca Corps...'*

If you have any brand new baby clothes or toys or would like to give a financial contribution towards the shipping costs, please contact Phyllis directly who will supply you with more details.



## *Bandsman Iestyn Davies...*

MANY people often ask what I do for a living and the response “I am a lobbyist for Christian interest groups in Wales!” is generally met either with blank stares or polite smiles and a nod of the head. The truth is that I never really learned the old principle that you should never talk about politics or religion. The reality is that my job includes talking about both these things normally at the same time. My wife will probably tell you that this isn't the only time that I am considered impolite!

The truth is however that politics and faith are an important part of our lives. Just think about Northern Ireland or September 11<sup>th</sup> and you will see what I mean. And in politics like in any other field Christians are called to be Salt and Light, witnessing to God's Grace and Truth.

What are the issues then that are currently being discussed that will have an impact upon us and which need to be influenced by the Grace of God?

Well to start with, here in Wales, education policy is currently being rewritten. Those of you who have 7 year old children or young will notice that the SATS tests they normally sat have been recently been abolished. There is some talk that the same will happen for 11 year olds soon – but don't give up on the homework kids it could be along time before their gone. The truth is however that in many ways there is limited good news around and the fact is that the Assembly government cannot really be considered a fan of the church and what the Christian community can deliver. Churches have been providing education for hundreds of years. The high level of literacy in Wales during the 19<sup>th</sup> century was largely down to the chapel and Sunday school. However, today the church is often looked upon more with contempt for its apparent lack of relevance to modern society, or with a patronising smile and the words “we respect your opinions ...” The consequences of this is that whilst other community groups are supported and encouraged to deliver social projects church and faith groups are often excluded. The Education Minister Jane Davidson recently went as far as to say, “We do not support Faith Schools.”

...contd/

How can we reclaim the position we once had then?

Well we need to be committed to helping our communities and schools through practical acts. If you have time free, why not consider helping your primary school with reading support for children. Why not consider becoming a Parent Governor, or even standing for election as a local councillor? The fact is that unless we take a stand we will remain voiceless forever, for instance, how many Christians do you know who are members of political parties, how many of us in the corps actually voted in the last election? The reason why we have invited MPs, AMs and councillors to recent events is to show them that we are aware of them and that they need to be aware of us.

Our organisation has a tremendous history of fighting for social justice and campaigning I hope that we continue to take our responsibility seriously.



## *BP Sections...by Denise Jenkins*

2001 was a good year for our BP Sections. The guides and brownies took part in many events like the Remembrance Day Parade and the Gang Show, which this year was performed on one night and was really successful. Various badges were awarded also, with the brownies and guides both presently tackling their first aid.

The brownies attended The Salvation Army Divisional Brownie Revels, which had the apt title 'Clowning Around'. The brownies had their faces painted, made clown bookmarks, iced clown faces on biscuits, took part in games and a camp-fire sing-a-long.

Brownies, guides and rainbows held three church parades during the year, taking part in the meetings by leading prayers, Bible readings, song and dance.

The highlight of the year was Ruth Chisholm's visit to Risca. Ruth is the Territorial Guide Co-Ordinator and we were privileged to have her at Risca for a special BP weekend. During the week of her stay the brownies and guides also celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with a short concert, during which two brownies made their promise. Another two brownies made their promise during the Sunday morning, which Ruth led.

The guide programme has also been revamped, and during the past year the leaders as well as the guides have been finding their way round this new programme, entitled 'Go for it'.

The leaders from all our BP sections also attended a Salvation Army training weekend at Sunbury Court and a Guide Association Training Day at St Joseph's, Duffryn. We believe that it is vital for this training to take place to enable us to keep up with changes within the Guide Association, and to give us new and fresh ideas for games and crafts etc to take back to our own units.

The aim within the BP units is to integrate more within the corps setting, so as we lead and teach the girls that come under our care week by week, we can teach them about Jesus and the Bible and bring them into the church. If you wish to receive more information on our BP sections, then please speak to Denise or Pam.

## *A word from the Divisional Commander, Major Mike Parker...*

THE Salvation Army is a living dynamic Church, which is seeking to adapt constantly to meet the challenges of a fast changing 21<sup>st</sup> Century World. In the words of our General, we have a clear mission to save souls, to grow saints and to serve suffering humanity. When we are true to that aim, then it is my deep belief that God will bless us and resource us and His Kingdom will grow here on earth.

So it is with a sense of excitement and anticipation that I respond to the request to write a short article for your Newsletter, for it comes on the back of reading the objectives that you have set as a corps for the coming years.

As I read these Corps Objectives, I am firstly impressed by the emphasis you place on prayer. It is the foundation by which all other objectives can only be achieved. You speak of nurturing those who form your membership – a Church that cares and supports is a Church that grows as far as I am concerned. Five important ways in which Churches grow seem to be addressed through your objectives.

- Churches grow *warmer* through fellowship. It is good to see fellowship at the heart of much that you are trying to do.
- Churches grow *deeper* through discipleship. Your Retreats, Bible Classes, Alpha Course etc are ways in which you deepen your relationship with the Lord.
- Churches grow *stronger* through worship – that's God's call to His people and the creative ways in which you are looking at worship is inspiring.
- Churches grow *broader* through ministry. You are seeking to meet the needs of the community and through the service you bring the more relevant you will become.
- Churches grow *larger* through evangelism. You have not forgotten that we are a Salvation Army seeking to bring new people to Christ and I rejoice with you in the growth that you have seen over recent days.

The task of the leadership of the Church is to discover and remove growth restricting barriers so that natural, normal growth may occur.

I thank God for your leaders, both Officers and Local Officers and pray that together, with the committed people of His Church at Risca, God's Kingdom will grow.

May the Lord bless you all.

## WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

<b>Sunday:</b>	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School
	4-45pm:	Open Air (not during December)
	4-45pm:	Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
<b>Monday:</b>	3pm-4pm:	Cwmcarn Outpost Home League (Zion Baptist Chapel, Cwmcarn)
	6pm-7pm:	Risca Home League
<b>Tuesday:</b>	10am – 11-30am:	Parent & Toddlers
<b>Wednesday:</b>	12-15pm-1-30pm:	Dinner Club
	2pm-3pm:	Friendship Club (for the retired)
	5pm:	Rainbows
	6pm:	Brownies
	6-30pm:	Guides
	8pm-9-30pm:	Bible Study (every other week)

### ***OTHER DETAILS:***

- We do have a 'Community Care Ministries Fund', which helps out with visitation of the community and to buy things like cards and flowers, if required. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see CT Margaret Gregory
- Is there anyone out there who can write poems? Please make yourself known to Deryk or Claire Durrant
- Ever felt you would like to officially belong to the corps here at Risca? How about exploring Adherency? Check out what it's all about by picking up a leaflet on the information table in the foyer. If it's for you – hand the completed return slip to the Captains
- Silver Tree – If you wish to publicise what you are doing for the Silver Tree Collection, please let Deryk or Claire Durrant know. The more who know how you are using your talents, the more money you will make
- Thanks to Phyllis who has collated, folded and stapled this newsletter