

REVELATIONS

The newsletter for The Salvation Army Risca Corps
Issue: April 2002



What Easter means to me...by Matthew Jenkins

WHAT Easter means to me is when Jesus rose from the dead to forgive our sin. I will always love Him for doing this because it means that we can have a clean slate with Jesus.

Captains Robert and Julia Jepson...

LIFE has been very interesting these last few weeks as Julia and I have begun to buy bits and pieces for our new addition to the family. I never thought I would be interested in buying cuddly toys, but I can't wait to get our baby's first teddy. It will probably be a Winnie the Pooh! Well on a spiritual note, going around Mothercare and Next buying baby clothes has taught us something that we'll share with you.



First of all we bought some tiny sleep suits up to 7.5 lb and then some nice 'Hey Diddle Diddle' clothes from Next up to 10lb, only to be told that at 33 weeks our baby is already 6lb in weight and it is advisable to buy clothes at 0-3 months. How little faith we had! So, we have chatted up a few shop assistants (well I have) and got all the baby's clothes changed to bigger sizes. Now here's the Spiritual bit - how many times have we not expected more from God? So often we live our Christian lives and ask God to help and provide and how blessed we are when we receive more than we bargained for and are sometimes surprised. How often do we make plans around what we think will be right and yet God decides to do something else and we are left amazed by His way? How many times do we fail to seek His advise and yet find that when we do everything slots into place? And are we sometimes guilty of limiting God and assuming that God will only act in a limited way?

Perhaps this Easter period, as we are thinking about new life in Christ let us grasp the abundance of that life and the extent to which God gives us life. As the thief on the cross next to Jesus got more than he bargained for - a place in paradise- let us also be prepared to allow God to bless us amazingly and to not place limitations on His Spirit's work in us.

Enjoy this special time of year, whether you are with us over Easter or on holiday. May God be with you.

YP Band...by YPBL Philip Hawkins

YP Band Leader	Philip Hawkins
Assistant YPBL	Andrew Thomas
YP Band Members	6
Learners	3
Seniors under 18	2
Adult Helpers	2

THE purpose of the YP Band is to teach Christian young people how to use their time and talents in praising, worshipping and witnessing for God and Jesus through their music making.

Learning to play a musical instrument takes a lot of time, patience and perseverance, both for pupil and teacher. It's a slow but steady progression which can lead to a lifetime of enjoyment and fulfilment. In The Salvation Army we have the unique opportunity to use our 'hobbies' in God's service and I believe this is very important in our young peoples Christian growth. There is so much to influence our youngsters outside our corps to take them away from God that we must care for and encourage them in every way possible. Learning to play an instrument needs a lot of encouragement from parents. Encouragement by getting their children to practice regularly and to keep going and not to give up. Learning to play and instrument can be likened to being a Christian they both need teaching, commitment, encouragement, patience and perseverance. The rewards are far beyond measure and to be a Christian musician is the best there is.

The YP Band members work very hard in band practice learning music for you to enjoy and be blessed by. Please encourage them and tell them how appreciated they are in our worship. They are our future band, our future corps, our future Army.



<http://www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk>

RISCA Corps now has a website, the address outlined above. In a conversation with Deryk Durrant we found out the following:

What is a website?

A website is just an electronic way of sharing information, so that anyone in the world can view it on a computer.

Who designed the website?

In it's current incarnation, I can say it's "all my own work"; although I foresee the design changing as more people give me feedback about what they want included. Not everything suggested for inclusion will necessarily be right for a PR web page so don't be too disappointed your suggestion doesn't get on line.

Who will maintain the website?

At the moment it will probably be me, but as websites are all set-up using a standard language, the content of the site could be maintained by anyone in our church.

What are the objectives of the website?

The main objective of any website is basic PR ... to make everyone else in the world aware of what we are, what we do and why we do it.

Any special features?

Given that the website is still very new, it doesn't have that many "features". However, it does have a scrolling news feature which looks quite funky and a couple of moving graphics which I hope will make people think.

News & Views

By Captain Robert Jepson

Sunday 14 April 2002

Morning meeting to be led by the Sunday school as this is Junior Soldier's Day of Renewal. The evening meeting will be led by the Youth Group. Please come along to support.

21/22 April 2002

Home and Family weekend with Major Rosemary Dickens (THQ)

Ladies Rally on Monday 22 April, 3pm. Everyone welcome. Major Joan Parker (DHQ) will be with us to chair the meeting.

Sunday 28th April 2002

Services led by Majors Paul and Janine Main (South Wales DHQ) at 10am and 6pm. They will also be holding a training event in the afternoon for our Welcome Team. Details to be supplied later.

People to pray for:

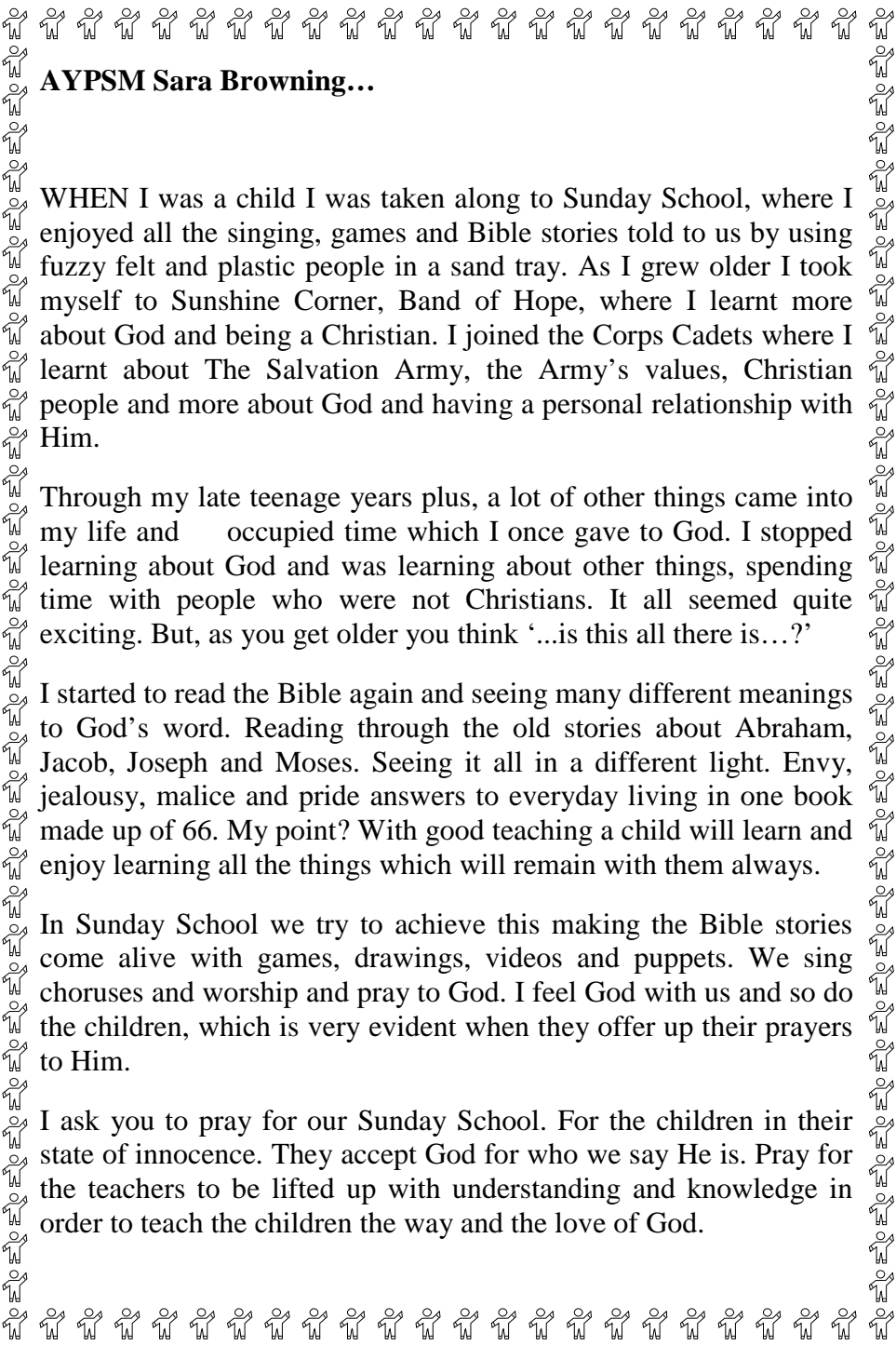
- Win Evans
- Alice Morris (Pam Brill's Mum)
- Linda, Phyllis's daughter who lives in Oldham
- June Gregory
- CS Pam Brill

Planned Giving

Planned giving is working well, however we apologise for the lack of statements being printed for everyone. This is because the computer program has been corrupted and the THQ computer representative has failed to rectify the situation for us. We are sorry about this but be assured that the progress is good and as a result of giving the Corps Secretary and I will be looking into purchasing a new computer to solve our problems. Well done everyone. Keep up the giving!

Mission to Manchester

Three of our youth are venturing on Mission to Manchester to be part of the More than Gold Church events. The Salvation Army will be playing an active part in the spreading of the Gospel message across Manchester whilst the games are on. Amy, Daniel and Dean will have mission team training and chances to put all they learn into practise. As part of a divisional team they will fly the flag for Risca later this year. They need £160 each to go on this exciting training event. They have to raise some money toward the cost of the week and will be asking the Corps people to help. So please dig deep. If you would just like to make a donation anyway to their costs please see the CT Margaret Gregory.



AYPSM Sara Browning...

WHEN I was a child I was taken along to Sunday School, where I enjoyed all the singing, games and Bible stories told to us by using fuzzy felt and plastic people in a sand tray. As I grew older I took myself to Sunshine Corner, Band of Hope, where I learnt more about God and being a Christian. I joined the Corps Cadets where I learnt about The Salvation Army, the Army's values, Christian people and more about God and having a personal relationship with Him.

Through my late teenage years plus, a lot of other things came into my life and occupied time which I once gave to God. I stopped learning about God and was learning about other things, spending time with people who were not Christians. It all seemed quite exciting. But, as you get older you think '...is this all there is...?'

I started to read the Bible again and seeing many different meanings to God's word. Reading through the old stories about Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Moses. Seeing it all in a different light. Envy, jealousy, malice and pride answers to everyday living in one book made up of 66. My point? With good teaching a child will learn and enjoy learning all the things which will remain with them always.

In Sunday School we try to achieve this making the Bible stories come alive with games, drawings, videos and puppets. We sing choruses and worship and pray to God. I feel God with us and so do the children, which is very evident when they offer up their prayers to Him.

I ask you to pray for our Sunday School. For the children in their state of innocence. They accept God for who we say He is. Pray for the teachers to be lifted up with understanding and knowledge in order to teach the children the way and the love of God.

Prayer Spot

**Father, take all the broken bits of our lives
Our broken promises;
Our broken friendships;
Our differences of opinion,
Our different backgrounds, shapes and sizes,
And arrange them together,
Fitting them into each other to make something beautiful
Like an artist makes a stained glass window.
Make a design
Your design
Even when all we see are the broken bits.***

Mark 11: 22-25—*Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘...have faith in God. I assure you that you can say to this mountain, ‘May God lift you up and throw you into the sea...’ and your command will be obeyed. All that’s required is that you really believe and do not doubt in your heart. Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe you will have it. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.’*

To be in a position for God to answer our prayers:

- We must be believers
- We must not hold a grudge against another
- We must not pray with selfish motives

Promises from God:

God does not ignore our prayers (Psalm 9:12)

Our prayers bring us into God’s presence (Psalm 145:18)

God honours persistence in prayer (Matthew 7:7)

God will give you wisdom if you ask for it (James 1:5)

A sincere prayer brings wonderful results (James 5:16)

God hears our prayers when they are in line with His will (1 John 5:16)

* Taken from The Lion Treasury of Children’s Prayer

The prayers have been submitted by Kim Davies

Captain Julia Jepson...

HOME LEAGUE NEWS

In the Home League we invite a guest speaker once a month to talk about their topic of interest. In February Mrs June Gregory came and did a wonderful talk on Rainbows. This month Ada Terrell came and showed us different ways of flower arranging and the meaning of flowers which was very interesting and informative. We are always looking for new speakers to share their interests with us, so if you have something interesting to say and have a spare hour on a Monday, just let me know!

In April we have one special event, our Home League weekend on 21/22 April. Major Rosemary Dickens (THQ) will be conducting the meetings on the Sunday. She will also be our guest speaker for the rally on Monday (3pm). Major Joan Parker will chair this and our guest soloist will be Songster Leader Malcolm Taylor from Abertillery. We have sent invitations to the other churches in our community - if you can support this event then please do come along.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Home League members who will be sharing the responsibility of leadership during my absence. Also to those people who have committed themselves to picking up the members that I usually do. Thank you so much for this, it is very much appreciated.

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

WE are trying to put together a toy shop and kitchen for the toddlers. If you have any items that would be suitable for this that you want to get rid of, please let us have them, as they are very expensive to buy.

This programme serves our community in a real way. I was greatly encouraged that four people from this group attended the Jazz Cabaret evening. They said it was great and were disappointed it ended so early! If you have any spare time on Tuesday mornings between 9.30-11.30 am, come and support this. The more people we have to build bridges in relationships with mums and be a Christian influence is all-important in the Kingdom building of our corps. Also, during my absence Pam Parnell would be very grateful for any extra help.

I have been reading up on the 'nesting' phase of pregnancy recently. A time when you have bounds of energy and zoom around the place making sure your nest is ready for your baby. Sometimes at Easter we can be very busy getting everything ready for our Easter activities, we can zoom around and sometimes miss out on the real joy and significance of it all. It is my prayer that we will **all** capture the deep meaning of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection in our hearts for real this Easter.

God bless you all.

FINANCES...by CT Margaret Gregory

FOLLOWING my initial entry in the corps newsletter, I have been asked for specific figures in connection with our corps giving.

In the last four weeks the envelope giving amounts to £2075.50 and the amount in the open plate was £158.31. The senior altar service total to date stands at £1190, but we already have a further five envelopes to add.

The profit on last months magazine was £15.

We are still waiting for all your good ideas to raise extra funds for the corps. We thank you for all your gifts and remember the Lord loves a cheerful giver, so keep smiling...



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

Update on Corps Objectives...

OUR follow-up review document has been completed at DHQ and it has all our objectives on there. We have already achieved some and are planning to plough through the rest as the year progresses.

- a) Our Newsletter is up and running - and gets bigger each edition and has lots to say and information to pop into your diary
- b) Our leaflets and welcome pack are on the way to being produced
- c) We have completed two Membership Information courses - of which we await the outcome
- d) We have held the Cabaret evening and raised £480 - an excellent team effort
- e) Our evening service attendance has begun to be in the region of 80 people so 40 more regularly attending and our 120 goal will be achieved
- f) Our Bible Study is continuing well and is beginning to see new people attend. As from 10 April Deryk Durrant will be administering the running of our Study group
- g) We held our 24/1 prayer event and started a weekly prayer meeting - this is putting our priorities right

So all in all we are doing well. Our thanks to everyone who has caught the vision and is working with us to achieve God's will and purpose for Risca Corps and Community.

Please pray that the Lord will open new doors to us as we work together so we can "reach outwards and grow upwards".

He is making all things new. We believe it - do you? Yes! Well let's get on board and enjoy the year ahead.

With Love and God's Blessing

Captains Robert and Julia Jepson

Songster Leader John Gregory...



AT last it is here. The article you have all been screaming for. Poet Laureate (alias Songster Leader, heating controller, kitchen hand and general dog's body) has put pen to paper.

The songster brigade: Well it's been a few years now since I took the responsibility for this brigade, and I didn't accept without a lot of thought and prayer. But I will say right away that these last few years have been very rewarding. Yes, we have had our away weekends, and who knows there could be more in store, but I believe we have contributed to the worship in this corps in a very big way. This isn't my doing, the songsters have responded very positively to every challenge that has come their way, especially in the department of accompanying the brigade, Pam has worked hard, with Ian and Andrew, and now Phil is helping as well, I think we are very privileged.

One thing that has encouraged me a lot (and when you get to my age a bit of encouragement now and again does help) is the youngsters who have decided to come to rehearsal, and already Caroline and Natalie are singing with us, and it will not be long before BIG MATT joins them. Why don't you pay us a visit on a Tuesday evening and find out for yourselves what goes on?

I believe great things are taking place in our corps, under the leadership of Captains Robert and Julia (the bump) Jepson, with God in control, I know exciting times are ahead.

A final thought, you might say you cannot do much to help, but just remember, it is important to do the little things in a BIG WAY.

I am privileged to be the leader of your brigade and I promise to do all I can to make them effective in the winning of people to Christ here at Risca.

God bless.

CSM Ian Brill...

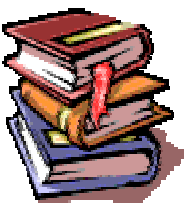
IN recent days we have just celebrated one of the ever increasing "special days". This particular one being national book day.

Now I am not a particularly big reader (yes, I can read!!!!!!!!!!) but I don't really get the time mainly because Claire Durrant is always nagging me for articles for the corps newsletter! Anyway, on this particular day I happened to be in work listening to the radio, and these endless contributors were telling us the latest book that they had read and raving how wonderfully written it was and this set me thinking that we as Christians have access to the best book that has ever been written.

Take a moment to think about it.

The Bible has every type of writing you can think of, if you like romantic stories then in the Bible you have romantic tales, if you like drama, histories all these topics are covered in this book, the difference being that these events in this book we believe as Christians are all true and not some fictional tale.

So let us as God's people have a "book day" every day and enjoy the writings that the Bible has for us in what is "**THE BEST SELLER**".



Bible Study...by Bandsman Deryk Durrant

THE Risca Corps Bible Study has been operational since before Christmas. It meets every other week on a Wednesday at 8-15pm (after the Brownies/Guides).

The Pastoral Care Committee initiated this activity, and Captain Robert started the group by presenting a series about Church Growth. Captain has now appointed someone to take ownership of the group, so that he is able to run Soldiership classes.

The number attending Bible study is steadily rising – with the existing members of the group actively looking for “new recruits”. If you are curious, why not come along ... but if you’re not feeling that brave, simply speak to someone who attends to find out more details.

Although I would love to tell you how wonderful the new leader is, I won’t – not because it isn’t true, but simply because self-praise is no recommendation.

Joking aside, even though I’m responsible for the group I’d like to think that our evenings together aren’t a monologue. In addition to which, I’m always looking for people who would like to lead a Bible study, or even a short series. Does this idea appeal to you? Alternatively, if there is anyone who you think the group would benefit from hearing, please let me know.

I did run a short series of studies before being asked to take ownership of the group. The topics were Judgement, Stagnation, lapses of Faith and lack of Commitment... the loose theme being things which would keep us from Heaven.

In the future, I’m planning on studying The Lord’s Prayer, Grace, Prayer and Forgiveness - not to mention the series commencing after Easter about the Acts of the Apostles. If you have something which you want covered, please let me know ... although I will insist that you attend to hear the results.

Dinner Club...by Songster Rachel Brill

THE Dinner Club runs every Wednesday at 12:15pm, when the people attending receive a three course lunch for the very cheap sum of £1-50.

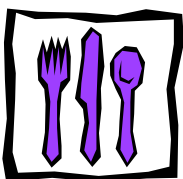
The staff (including a lady who helps from another local church) are a lovely bunch, always willing to help anyone who has a moan; especially the gentleman, whom if he has a complaint, comes and moans at me in work!

We have approximately 40-50 people each week including our cutlery dryer-upper who will be 97 this year.

A mixture of people attend the club. Some are always willing to have a chat and others who, to preserve your own sanity, you avoid asking how they are because sometimes you will be told!!!

But seriously we do love them and see a real need to care for their individual needs.

You are quite welcome at any time to call in and have a look at what goes on; but beware, if we're short-staffed, you will be asked to help!!!



Bandmaster Ian Browning...



Doesn't time fly?

It's already April and we've experienced both Winter and Spring, and a lot has happened...hasn't it? I expect you are probably waiting for your holiday and looking forward to a well earned rest.

Well, so far this year the Band has also been busy.

A visit to Caldicot Bethany Baptist, together with our songster brigade, encouraged the fellowship there and, guess what?...they had increased attendances on the following Sunday!

During the past few months the Band has been spending time visiting elderly folk resident in nursing homes around our district and have told them in a time of praise and worship. We've also visited St Woolos Hospital where, not only the patients, but also the nursing staff, testified to experiencing God's presence at that particular time.

Palm Sunday allowed us an opportunity to lead well over 100 Christians in a March of Witness and praise around the area of Ty-Isaf. There was no doubting the fact that everyone in that area was aware that we were celebrating Jesus!

Culminating with the Easter celebration, this has been a busy year to date, but doesn't time fly? Today, I encourage you to read Ecclesiastes 3 and continue to read through until the end of Chapter 5. I'm sure that, when you read it you will appreciate that apparently there is a specific time for you to do specific things. Also, I am sure that you will recognise the fact that you are important and what you do with your time is also important.

Doesn't time fly? It sure does, so use it wisely...as God intends it to be.

BAND MATTERS

- **Band Weekend, Saturday/Sunday 6/7 April 2002**

We are looking forward to the visit of Cannock Band to Risca and leading us in our Band weekend.

This weekend is a good opportunity for you all to invite former Bandsmen to attend the Saturday night Festival of Music at 7-15pm in our hall. Wouldn't it be good if they all came?

Cannock Band are a good corps band and will provide us with an evening of quality music making, which will be both entertaining and blessed.

Donation tickets for the Saturday are available at £3, £2 (concessions), under 16's are free!

The Sunday services are as follows:

Holiness Meeting 10am

Praise and Salvation 5pm

- **Spring Concert, Saturday 20 April, Bethany Baptist Church, Risca**

Once again, Risca Salvation Army Band are in concert with the Mynyddislwyn Male Choir for the South Atlantic Medal Association, but this time we are at home in Risca!

The Right Honorable Don Touhig MP, will comper the programme which will comprise of a variety of sacred and secular music.

Tickets on sale from any Risca Bandsmen—cost £3

- **Saturday 5 October 2002**

Risca Salvation Army Band in concert with Gwent Police Choir at Moriah Baptist Church, Risca





MEMO FROM GOD

To: YOU

Date: TODAY

From: THE BOSS

Subject: YOURSELF

Reference: LIFE

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help.

If life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. All situations will be resolved, but in my time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic; don't despair. There are people in this world for which driving is an unheard of privilege.

Should you have a bad day at work; think of the man who has been out of work for years.

Should you despair over a relationship gone bad; think of the person who has never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

Should you grieve the passing of another weekend; think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

Should your car break down leaving you miles away from assistance; think of the paraplegic who would love the opportunity to take that walk.

Should you notice a new grey hair in the mirror; think of the cancer patient in chemo who wishes she had hair to examine.

Should you find yourself at a loss and pondering what is life all about, asking what is my purpose? Be thankful. There are those who didn't live long enough to get the opportunity.

Should you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities; Remember, things could be worse. You could be one of them!

Pakistan Update...by Songster Phyllis Browning

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...

'...From memory I will just give you an idea of how many babies have already received gifts:

*two year old son of **Elizabeth Ignatius** (disabled mother)*

*new baby daughter of employee **Nazir Mistry** (THQ Property Department)*

*new baby daughter of **Captain Magdaline Emmanuel** (Rawalpindi)*

*new baby son of **Captain Jennifer Qaiser** (THQ Women's Department)*

*new baby son of **Captain Shazia Arshad** (Bhogiwal, Lahore)*

*new baby daughter of **Captain Perveen Munowar** (Faisalabad)*

*new baby son of **Captain Asmat Johnson** (Islamabad)*

*baby daughter of **Captain Sughra Shaukat** (Sahiwal)*

It has been wonderful to have lovely things to give and of course it is saving us precious League of Mercy money.

Thanks again to all who are helping with this project. Colonel Sheila Gulzar or her private secretary, Mrs Jean Albert, will continue to keep contact with you...'

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.



WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday:	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School
	4-45pm:	Open Air
	4-45pm:	Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
Monday:	3pm-4pm:	Cwmcarn Outpost Home League (Zion Baptist Chapel, Cwmcarn)
	6pm-7pm:	Risca Home League
Tuesday:	10am – 11-30am:	Parent & Toddlers
Wednesday:	12-15pm-1-30pm:	Dinner Club
	2pm-3pm:	Friendship Club (for the retired)
	5pm:	Rainbows
	6pm:	Brownies
	6-30pm:	Guides
	8-15pm-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
- 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
- Thanks to Phyllis who has taken responsibility for folding, stapling, distributing and collecting the donations for the newsletter
- If you would like anything included in the corps newsletter, please see Deryk or Claire Durrant
- If you would like anything included on the corps website, please also see Deryk or Claire Durrant