

THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS

Revelations!

Issue: Easter 2003

Opening of Refurbished Hall...

Saturday 5 April 2003

Coffee Morning

10-30am—3pm

The hall will be open for everyone to come and view the work which has been done. The coffee morning will be organised by the YP. If you wish to help in any way—please see AYPSM Sara Browning.

Sunday 6 April 2003

Service of Dedication

10am

The service will be led by our Divisional Commander, Major Mike Parker, who will cut the ribbon. Special dignitaries will be invited, along with people on our already linked list and members from local community groups and churches.

Refreshments

11-45am

It is anticipated that the Sunday School and Youth will be relocated elsewhere, or rescheduled, in order for refreshments to be served to our special guests and dignitaries.

March of Witness/Open Air

4-45pm

Service of Celebration

6pm

This will be under the theme of 'Look, I make all things new'. Tea/Coffee/Cake will follow the Service to which everyone is invited. During this service a formal thank you will be extended to Rev Ian Waugh and the members of Bethany Baptist Church.

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Risca Salvation Army - a family church for everyone!

Captains Comment...

JULIA and I were given a "Jabez Prayer" Devotional book for Christmas. We have been using it for our devotional times and it has been a very enlightening book to read. Many of you will already know the prayer from our study of it last year in meetings. But here it is to refresh us:



"Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" so God granted him what he requested." (1 Chronicles 4 v 10 (NEJV)

We were particularly blessed and interested in the part of the prayer that asks God to enlarge our territory. This is far from a selfish prayer! It is not asking for more personal gain, rather it asks for God to use us in wider spheres and with new opportunities. With our newly renovated building, one could say that we have been blessed indeed, but are we going to be bold enough to take action, to enlarge our territories, to make every effort to see the hall full, to ask God to give us fresh challenges? God will often ask us to take up challenges with daunting odds - He wants to grow the size of our

faith to match the size of His destiny for us. It's in these awakenings that in our great need we should cry out to God "O Lord, put your hand on me!" Jabez knew that without the power from above asking for an enlarged territory could be dangerous and overwhelming. Therefore can I encourage you all as we venture ahead with God - *"Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks."* Powers for your new tasks which the Lord will give to us all as we pray for greater things. Easter will soon be with us and as we deeply ponder on the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ lets take courage in knowing that the power that beat the devil and the power that raised Jesus from the dead is ours today and forever.

Finally, it remains for me to sincerely thank you all for the support you have given to the Corps Fellowship whilst we have been out of our building. I'm sure you will agree that our time with Bethany Baptist Church has been enriching, pleasant and needed. We have drawn closer to God, and experienced a brand new sense of fellowship that of the Church universal of which Christ is the head. To the Reverend Ian Waugh and the deacons of Bethany we are the better for experiencing your friendship and hospitality. Long may our association be and may God bless both fellowships for His glory.

May God bless you all.

YP...AYPSM Sara Browning

SPRING is now upon us and we are eagerly waiting to enter our refurbished hall. The time we have spent together at Bethany has been good. The room made available for our YP meetings has always been warm and welcoming—a very big thank you to Bethany for all your kindness to us. In the last issue of *Revelations* a competition was given trying to encourage the YP to win a WHSmith voucher. To my disappointment no-one took up the challenge to put together an interesting recipe for a desert to follow Sunday lunch. Well, just for you to have a second chance, you will be able to enter the competition again when we open up our refurbished hall. On Saturday 5 April the Sunday School will be supplying refreshment in the YP hall from 10-30am. The competition will commence at 12 Noon and a panel of judges will announce the winner. Palm Sunday this year will be a day for the children. The morning will begin at 10am with Junior Soldier Day of Renewal. A March of Witness with the churches of Risca in the afternoon followed by tea at the hall. AT 6pm during the service the children will be awarded their prizes for attendance during the meeting. It will be a busy day but God loves His children and will be with us at all times. The YP Anniversary this year is on the 21/22 June 2003. The leaders for the weekend are Lieutenants Ian and Margo Walford from Southern DHQ. More information regarding this weekend will follow. It is my prayer that God will continue to bless us through the coming months and keep us in His care.

YP...YPBL Philip Hawkins

THE YP Band have had two engagements since the New Year. Several weeks ago they led the Sunday meeting at Abersychan. There were five people in attendance from the corps, the smallest number they have ever played to. At Port Talbot there were 750 people, the largest number they have ever played to. Please pray for the corps at Abersychan that there can be a future for them. I believe the YP Band were an encouragement to them and one comment was made that 'it was nice to have noise in the hall.' The YP band are playing at a good standard and are working hard in practices. We have a good mix at the moment of older and younger players. Our newest member is Leah Browning who made her debut at Port Talbot. I wonder how many players have made their debut in front of 750 people! Ryan Williams and Hannah Jenkins will be joining sometime this year. Each year we give out an award for 'YP Band Member of the Year'. This is for playing, effort, reliability and enthusiasm. This has recently been awarded for 2002 to Jordan Williams. Jordon is coming along very well and has just started playing with the Senior Band. Matthew Jenkins is another player who has started playing the Senior Band. There are now nine players in the Senior Band who have come in from our YP Band. We also have an award for the 'Most Improved Player' and this was awarded to Leah Browning. This particular award is given our several times a year and will next be given our at Easter. Please encourage our youngsters. They are working hard all the time!

Bandstand...
BM Ian Browning



FIRST of all I need to thank all of you who came out with the band during the **Christmas** season. It was a busy itinerary and it was good to see collectors out and about with us.

During March we had a fabulous evening with the **Mynyddislwyn Male Choir**. The Newbridge Leisure Centre was quite full and a good evening was had by all. That evening raised a significant sum of money for our corps building fund. The following Sunday the band led the meetings at **Llanelli**. We took with us Major Kelly Ponsler, IHQ, as our Executive Officer. The Spirit was with us and spoke through us to the people within the community at Llanelli. I feel it is important that we encourage other corps within the division. With the demise of our Divisional Music Schools our children will not be as fortunate as we were by knowing other Army kids in the division. **Major Peter Ayling**, IHQ, came and led band rehearsal. His musical ability is unquestionable and the band enjoyed his leadership.

We are going to do something very brave during the month of April. We are writing to the Editor of the Argus and giving him a piece on the work of the band, and inviting his readers to an **open band rehearsal** on Thursday 10 April 2003. The rehearsal will be led by Carl Saunders, Cardiff Canton. We have no idea how many, if any, will turn up—it would be great to see you there!

On Saturday 12 April Risca Corps will be taking part with the City Centre Flag Day in Cardiff. The band will be taking part. We need collectors though! Are you free? Please come and see me if you can help.

What do we have to look forward to within the next few months?

- the visit of Cannock Band to Risca
- the visit of Assistant Territorial Music Director/ International Staff Songster Leader **Andrew Blyth** coming to lead our band rehearsal on Thursday 15 May 2003
- good **bandstand opportunities** coming up during the Summer months so we can spread the gospel of Christ to those who do not regularly attend church
- the fundraising concert with the **Buy-as-you-View Cory Band**. This promises to be a very special event—further details come later in the newsletter

The band need your prayers. We have an awesome responsibility to spread the good news of our Lord to all people everywhere. Please continue to support the band. Please continue to encourage the band. Take ownership of the band. It's our corps band!

And so to Easter...

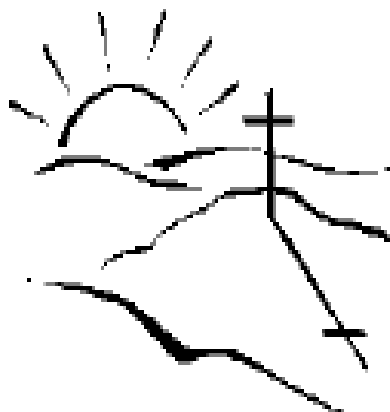
I am very proud of my garden at Ynysddu. I have spent many hours working on the backbreaking jobs that need to be done. As I looked out my window the other day I was pleased with the life that is now coming back to the garden and it won't be long before I invite friends and family (so I am told!!!!!!) round for barbeques.

Gardens have figured prominently in our lives since God placed man in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus with great agony prepared to redeem his fallen creation. Jesus met Mary in a garden and gave her good news.

You know, within each of us is a secret garden – a place where we can get together with God. We can unlock the gates and invite him in. When we do invite him in flowers can grow where weeds have once been.

The women were shocked to find that Jesus was not in the tomb that first Easter morning. They wanted so much to find peace, hope and joy and were stunned to find the tomb empty. But, we don't need to physically go to a tomb to find those things. We can find peace and hope and joy in a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It's my prayer that we will all continue to have that relationship. For those who don't – how about turning around and coming back to a waiting God? He is just longing to take you back. He paid a terrible price to make it possible. God gave us the most fabulous Easter egg that first Easter.

People ask me 'What's so special about Easter?' 'What happened at Easter?' As we celebrate Easter we find renewed peace, joy, hope and a firm sense of mission, which can affect our entire outlook on life. We become purpose-driven to win our world for Christ. Our whole image—how we appear and talk, our outlook and reaction to life will all be different...and when people ask what's happened to us, what's so special about Easter, we can answer '**Easter happened—that's what!**'



'Never before have we seen love so clearly. Never again will we need a sacrifice. In that one defining moment he paid for our sin. Once and for all, like never before and never again!'

An Easter Meditation from Major Mike Parker...

HANDS up if you never get anything wrong!

I guess we could fill Risca's corps newsletter with plenty of personal illustrations of how wrong we sometimes get things.

I heard of a boy who thought God had a tortoise that prayed. He explained: "the minister always says, "now let's pray the prayer our Lord tortoise to pray""(taught us!).

Doctor Dionysus Lardney (1793-1859) said, "rail travel at high speed is not possible, because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia." He also asserted no large steam ship would be able to cross the Atlantic since it would require more coal than it could carry. Two years later the Great Western crossed the Atlantic.

When Jesus spoke to His disciples of His resurrection, they seemed to have assumed that He was talking about something else. They couldn't believe that Jesus would rise from the dead. How wrong they were!

Resurrection is a key element in our faith for, *'if Christ has not been raised from the dead then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe.'* (1 Corinthians 15:14). The resurrection of Jesus gives meaning to life and death. It takes Christian faith out of the realm of theory and into everyday living.

Because Jesus is ALIVE, He challenges us to follow Him and he gives to us the power to start living out His teaching ourselves. To be a Christian is not just to believe certain things, it is to know and love Jesus Christ.



Let Christ this Easter resurrect your love for Him. May this Easter see a resurrection in you living your life for Him. Let Him resurrect the giving of your time, talent and treasure. Let Him resurrect your devotion to Him and to the fellowship of believers in Risca.

God the Father brought Jesus back to life to vindicate all He had said and done. We sometimes get it wrong - all of us - but because God raised Jesus from the dead, He can bring to life those aspects of our lives that have to all purposes died to God's love. I invite you to share with me this desire, not only for Easter 2003, but for the exciting days ahead, that *"we may*

know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

'Choose Life'

May God bless you all this Easter time.

Major Mike Parker is currently the Divisional Commander for the South and Mid Wales Division. As from June 2003 he will be taking up his new appointment as Territorial Secretary for Personnel.

FINANCES ... CT Margaret Gregory

Planned Giving:

Unfortunately our giving is down from £480 to £430.

From our pledges we should be receiving £506.

Webb Ivory:

£151 profit was made from Webb Ivory 2002.

Silver Tree:

The Silver Tree Collection 2002 brought in a total of £992-25.

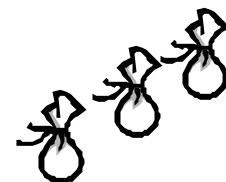
Other Donations:

£250 has been received towards new song books.

In Memory of ... Malinda Barry:

£200 was collected in memory of Malinda.

We are indebted to Bethany Baptist Church who have let us have the use of the church for practices free of charge. Dinner Club has been run from St Margaret's Church Hall. This has gone surprisingly well and between 40 and 45 have received their three course lunch.



*Risca Corps Building
Fund—£843-86*

IMPOLITE CONVERSATION

...Deputy Bandmaster Iestyn Davies

You've heard it said that you should never talk about religion or politics in polite conversation. Iestyn Davies disagrees.



BY the time you read this article we will probably be at War. I thankfully only have read of the days leading up to the Second World War but can vividly remember the build up to the Falklands Conflict. And in recent months as we have experienced yet another phoney war the bloodshed and human suffering on a scale never known in the history of mankind seems to be continuing into the 21st Century. But just in case we begin to think that the current situation is a reflection of modern times it would be good to remember that the bible was written against the backdrop of war, distress and civil unrest. Jesus was born into an occupied territory that was under military rule. David (amongst other things) was not just a songwriter but also a warrior. Jeremiah and the prophets spoke from God at times when war clouds were gathering. The sounding of trumpets might have conquered Jericho but the destruction of the walls brought not only rejoicing but also bloodshed.

The vivid reality of war is now only a button press or mouse click away. Thanks to 24 hour news, satellite broadcasting and the internet, the events in the Gulf will take place in our front rooms in between Neighbours and the Holiday Programme. For weeks, speculation has dominated the airwaves and columns of our newspapers. As I have been working with journalists and producers it has been almost impossible to focus on any other event. Nothing else has seemed to be newsworthy. As I write, President Bush is no doubt putting the final touches to his address to the whole world. A captive worldwide audience awaits him.

Despite all this press coverage and media interest the reality of war will remain so distant. There will be no blackouts. No rationing. The most likely effect on us here in the UK will be a rise in petrol prices and a few months further instability in the stock market. For others of course it will mean grief, despair and utter devastation. We will become spectators of the biggest media event since the Sydney Olympics. There can be no greater testament to our post-modern third party existence than our voyeuristic fascination with conflict. The whole process is known as "infotainment", information and entertainment all rolled into one.

Please forgive me if I don't attempt to answer the question "Is this a just war" as I would quickly find myself out of my depth. But what I do want to point out is simply this; the bible engages with the human condition. Scripture is Certificate 18 stuff. Sadly much of what the Church does (and I'm not just talking about the Salvation Army) somehow seems to reflect a Walt Disney kind of faith. Certificate PG, not quite a U but banal enough not to offend. There is nothing phoney or false about it. But whilst the church has become obsessed with infotainment, effective Christianity, the kind that is attractive to the public at large, is still the kind that engages with the realities of the human condition.

For the past fifteen years, and now I am talking specifically about the Salvation Army, we have sought to make our particular expression of the Christian faith relevant. Have we fallen into the trap of entertaining rather than preaching and living the Christian gospel? For somehow I fear that all we have done is ensure that more people consider the Christian religion and Salvationism in particular as irrelevant. This has to be ironic since our part of the Christian church has been involved more than most at the sharp end during times of both peace and war. We were called to be Certificate 18 Christians. How more relevant can we seek to be than we have been? Certainly more so than the Walt Disney Salvationism that often hides within our citadels! Has this been our own period of "Phoney War"?

The need for the church and the Salvation Army in particular to get real is now greater than ever. For however you view the current conflict it is important that Christians have a view and that our worship and ministry as a corps reflects what is going on around us. We cannot afford to remain as passive spectators overtaken by apathy. This will only succeed in persuading the thousands of people demonstrating against war as well as those resigned to the reality of the world that Christianity is irrelevant.



So please pray for world leaders and politicians. Please read and keep informed and when watching or reading please be critical and question not only the facts but also the way the facts are being presented. Please venture an opinion and share it in a spirit of openness. Please come to church willing to be challenged not entertained. In these days just as in the past please be willing to engage your faith with the realities of the human condition.

From...

**Rev Ian Waugh
Bethany Baptist
Church**

WE'LL miss you! It is strange how things often come about, a conversation about building refurbishment, memories of our own building works and the realisation that God has given us a resources that we need to be good stewards of, led to the proposition that you might like to- "Come and join us."

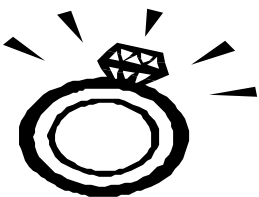
When the suggestion was brought to our church meeting there was no dissention or doubt that it was the right thing. I admit I had one or two sleepless nights leading up to our first Sunday morning meeting wondering if it would really work, but the reality was like a hand slipping into a well fitting glove, it was almost as if we had always worshipped together, we had an immediate rapport and there was a genuine warmth and love between the two fellowships.

The impact that you have had on us, is that we have seen new ways of considering things. We have had the privilege of witnessing new approaches to worship, prayer, fellowshiping and many other aspects of church life. The outcome is that we are not the church that you came to in January, you have helped us to grow and develop. The reality is that we share a genuine love for Jesus and a heart felt concern about those who don't know Him. We may have some differences in the in the way we go about things, but when we focus on Jesus we are able to celebrate together and respect our individuality. In doing so we have sent a powerful message to many folk outside the church as well as within that Christians of different denominations can work together.

As a former Salvationist it has been a joy to revisit my roots to share once again the unique form of worship that only the army experiences. More importantly is being able to replace my Articles of War lost many years ago in a house move and by doing so tangibly fill a gap in the story of my own Christian walk.

Where do we go from here? Many people from both fellowships have expressed the wish that we find a way of continuing fellowship and that we maintain the friendships that have developed. I am sure that this will be possible and that the result of our having joined together will bring much fruit that has yet to be seen. Throughout it all though we must not ignore the mission that either together or apart we have been called to; and that is to build the kingdom and reach the lost. Nothing has changed since William Booth once said, "*Go for souls go for the worst.*"

I know this is old fashioned, but today, people in Risca are perishing, they have no hope, we have the Good News so let's take it to them. As again William Booth exhorted, "*Work as if every thing depended on your work, and pray as if everything depended on prayer.*" Here at Bethany we will be praying for you, your work, ministry and mission and we would ask you to do the same for us, so that both fellowships would be alive, vibrant and salt and light to the community.



Congratulations!

To

Julie and Brin

on their
engagement. We
are all looking
forward to
receiving our
invitations!

SA PUBLICATION/WEBSITE PICTURES

In response to recent events it has become necessary for the Army to change their policy with regards to photographs appearing in SA publications and websites. The new policy, effective immediately, requires all photographs of people to be accompanied by a signature from the person concerned demonstrating their consent. If the person in question is under 18 years of age the signature must be that of a parent or guardian. Permission does not need to be sought from people in large group shots who will not be identified by name.

REVELATIONS

- Thanks to Phyllis for stapling and distributing the newsletter
- Thanks to all those who have written an article
- Thanks to Kim who has taken ownership of Partners in Prayer

FOR SALE!

CT Margaret Gregory has the following uniforms for sale—

- Male Size 38 Regular
- Male Size 40 Regular
- Ladies Size 10 Long
- Ladies Size 11 Regular

'VERY early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place where He prayed.' (Mark 1: 35)

We pray because God commands us to pray. The New Testament commands to pray are many. Here are a few. Pray continually. Watch and pray. Pray with thanksgiving. Pray in the Spirit. Always pray and do not give up. Pray for those in authority. Pray for utterance. Pray for boldness.

We may pray because of our Lord's example. Jesus Christ the very Son of God was obedient to prayer. Although His day was filled from morning to night with many pressures and responsibilities—addressing crowds, healing the sick, granting private interviews, travelling with and training His disciples—He made prayer a priority. If Jesus was so dependent upon this fellowship in prayer alone with His Father, how much more should you and I spend time alone with God.

We pray because of the examples of the disciples and others. The lives of the disciples and the biographies of Christians who have been mightily used of God through the centuries all testify on the necessity of prayer. They, too, are examples of obedience to His command to pray. I'm not suggesting that you need to spend long hours each day in prayer, though some are called to this high privilege. But you can 'pray continually', bringing everything to God in prayer. Those who obey God's command to pray are mightily blessed and used by God.

We pray for fellowship with God. God awaits anxiously for you to come close to Him in prayer. Proverbs records *'The prayer of the upright is His delight.'* This should motivate you to spend more time with our Lord because you wish to please and delight Him.

My own son helped me to realise the importance of this fact. No matter how busy I am, when Mark wants to talk with me, I gladly put aside everything else just to have fellowship with him. I long and love to be with him, and I am always grateful when he wants to be with me. When Mark was small, he came and sat by me. He said nothing. He just sat close by me. I sensed the warmth of his love. I finally broke the silence by

saying '...Mark, I want you to know how much it means to me that you came to sit by me...' He replied, 'Daddy, that's the reason I came. I just want to be near you.'

For the first time in my life, I really understood how the great heart of our loving Father God delights in us and longs for our fellowship

WHY ARE WE TO PRAY?

We pray to communicate with God. He said, 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.' Prayer is not just an 'escape hatch' for you to get out of trouble, please yourself or gain your selfish ends. It is your line of communication to and with God. As His child, you have direct access to His throne. He loves you so much that He has made Himself available to you at all times. Through prayer you talk to God and He responds to you.

We pray to receive spiritual nurture. Just as a child needs food to grow physically, so you need spiritual food to grow spiritually. You can miss a meal and not feel any ill effects, but if you go without food for a week, you begin to weaken and run out of energy. It's the same with your spiritual life. You can go through one day without any apparent ill effects, but if you continue in this practice, you can become under-nourished, losing the strength to live a victorious life and to maintain the boldness necessary for vital witness for Christ.

We pray to obtain results. Genuine Biblical-based prayer does change things. It so changes those who pray that God is free to reveal His will to them. Prayer also releases God's great power to change the course of nature and people and nations. The faithful prayers of Spirit filled believing Christians have proved this many times over.

We pray to become a fruitful witness for Christ. The divine order is first to talk to God about men and then to talk to men about God. Witnessing is simply gathering the results of prayer, both the prayer of the one who is sharing Christ and the prayers of others.

Adult & Community...Captain Julia

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OVER the past weeks whilst we have been Worshipping with Bethany Baptist church the re:generation Cell Group (Our Youth Group) has been meeting at the quarters. We have worked our way through the Get God Course which was devised by The World Wide Message tribe in Manchester and used at their Message 2000 Mission to the city. The youth participated well and entered in to discussions when questions were asked and the video added a good dimension to the course. There was plenty of time for socialising , crumpets and ice cream, chocolate fudge cake and coffee, not to mention the involvement of our youngest member Emily, who has been entertained by Daniel and Jordan, as they practised their juggling skills to Emily's amusement.

There are exciting things ahead for our group. From August 29th until the 1st September 2003 an activity holiday has been set for the Young People at the Christian Mountain Centre in LLanbedr Nr Harlech. The Cost of this is £60 and the rest of the £130 cost is paid for from a THQ Grant. This is an opportunity not to be missed and I encourage those members who have invites to book right away.

It is good to know that Dean is once again wanting to go on the Divisional Mission and we will wish him well as he heads off to Dublin in the Summer. Natalie will be going to the East Midlands Summer School with Nathan and Jonathan attending the Territorial Music School and we hope that they too will have a great time.

Recently the Youth have been out bowling, and taken part in the 24/1 Prayer event through a Youth Stay awake. We will have also ventured to the Territorial Youth Rally in London.

Our Re:Generation Youth Cell comprises of Dean, Daniel, Matthew, Jordan, Stuart, Caz, Natalie and Alan. We ask that you pray for them as they meet each week to support each other and positively show by their attendance their positive desire to know more about God.

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WE have been having an interesting and exciting time in the Home & Family group since the last newsletter. Our meetings have been held at the Britannia complex and three new people have started to attend. The Friendship Club (Over Sixties) have joined us and the two groups have really benefited from being together, some have even made new friends. Apart from myself the meetings have also been led by Keith and Les & Dorothy. We have particularly enjoyed the musical items from Les and his guitar, he really has a talent there.

It was a sad occasion when Linda Barry passed away. All the Home League members had such respect for her and some attended her funeral. Mrs Clark has not attended for some time because of her cataract operation, but I have visited her regularly and she is now definitely on the mend. Mrs Megraw had a spell in hospital after a nasty fall but is now back home. Please pray for our elderly members of the Corps, some of them have given a lifetime service to the Army and continue to serve within their capabilities. Some live alone and often get lonely so please remember them in your prayers and support them in any practical way you can.

We are currently working hard for our Home & Family weekend **30/31 March 2003**. My sister Captain Christine Lee and her husband Adrian will be conducting the weekend meetings and rally on the Monday at 4.00 pm. On Monday evening at 7.00 pm we are putting on an **'Old Time Music Hall' Show**. This is a fund raising effort, tickets are priced **£1.50 each or £4.00 for a family ticket (two adults and children)**. These are available from myself or some of the Home League members. The evening will be a lot of fun and is supported by a quartet led by John Gregory and a band group led by Ian Browning. Please, please do come along and support this occasion. If you are not able to come, perhaps you would like to give a donation by buying a ticket.

Finally, food for thought. An officer is never able to watch *anything* without it self-consciously being sieved through the brain with the thought '*can I use this in a sermon or illustration!*' Well this happened when I was watching the Eastenders episode where Natalie was all set to run off with Ricky and leave her husband Barry, until she found out that Ricky had betrayed her by sleeping with someone else. She turned to Ricky and said '*Ricky, you are everything that I've ever wanted, but you will never be what I need!*'. How true when we think of the world and their view of Jesus, so many turn their backs on religion and God, what they want they run after in search of happiness. However, all these things may well be what they want but never what they really need to feel totally happy, contented and fulfilled. Many of our elderly members are able to withstand what life throws at them because they have Jesus in their lives and they are living proof that as the Songsters sang at the 24/1 '*Jesus is all I need!*'

Parent and Toddlers...
Dinner Club...Home
League...Friendship
Club...Bible Study...
Guides...Brownies...
Rainbows...Community
Care Ministries



Partners In Prayer



God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts.
Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.
1 Peter 4:10 (New Living Translation)

Grace and Truth

Dear Lord we pray that you will show us how we can effectively help people to be more forgiving towards others who have wronged and disappointed them. *

Leadership in Education

Dear Lord, we pray for all staff, parents, pupils, governors and friends seeking to exercise more Christian influence in places of education. *

Mental Health

Dear Lord, we pray for all who work with adults and children affected by mental illness. Lord we ask you to grant them success in rebuilding the lives of their patients. *

**Taken from the Care spring prayer guide – written and prepared by Celia Bowring. www.care.org.uk/prayer/diary.htm or email prayer@care.org.uk*

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

FOR about 12 years I have been a member of the corps council at Risca. When I first came on to it I was told by a very wise person that I would still be discussing the same agenda for years to come. This I have found to be very true. That is until now! By the time you will read this we, as a corps, should be in our newly refurbished hall (unless Bethany Baptist Church have had their prayers answered). I feel, after conversations with other members of the corps, that it would be appropriate to thank firstly the members of the corps council, past and present, for their vision and their patience in finally being in a position to have this work done. I also feel it is important to thank our CO's for their 'go getting' attitude. They have approached this project and finally secured the time and finances to enable us to enjoy worshipping in pleasant surroundings. In a relatively short space of time they have cut through the mountains of red tape and restrictions that have been placed on us in the past. They have turned mere talk into a reality. Robert and Julia —on behalf of Risca Corps I want to record this gratitude to you both. Let us now enjoy our new surroundings and worship wholeheartedly giving 'our best to the highest'.

Thank You!

CSM Ian Brill

Deliberate Discussion!

The National Assembly Elections take place on 1 May 2003. Politics: Sleaze, Spin or Social Change?

Is God green? Should Christians do more to protect the environment?





The Salvation Army Risca Corps Fundraising Concert with *Buy as you View Cory Band*

Date: Saturday 5 July 2003
Venue: Risca Primary School
Time: 7-15pm
Tickets: All tickets: £6

WHAT a fabulous opportunity the above weekend will be to raise money for our building fund! We are privileged that the *Buy-as-you-View Cory Band* have agreed to present a Saturday evening concert for us. A lot of hard work has gone into the planning and preparation for this weekend and I am sure it will be an occasion to remember!! The *Buy-as-you-View Cory Band* is the world's premier brass band and tickets, when available, will be limited.

The weekend commences on Friday 4 July 2003 with an SP&S Roadshow taking place at our hall. On sale will be uniforms, music, books, clothing and Bibles. Please come along and support. All corps within the division, and corps from neighbouring divisions, will be invited to the evening and refreshments will be on sale. All proceeds going to the building fund.

On the Saturday the Roadshow will continue to retail at the corps while up at Risca Primary School an exhibition will be in place. It is hoped that members of the community will come along to see the exhibition and leaflets about what the Army in Risca is currently doing and what we are about will be in circulation.

I am envisaging that people will make an Army day of Saturday. Hopefully people will come along to the Roadshow, allow us to serve them refreshments, meet up with friends before they go up to the exhibition and finally into the evening concert.

This concert will be the major fundraiser for our corps of the year. Please give it your 100% support. Nearer the time you may be asked to display a poster in your window or be given some tickets to sell. Help us make this weekend a success. It is not a band occasion. It's a corps occasion. *Our corps!* We all need to play a part in the raising of money for our building fund. You matter!

If you have any queries at all about the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ian Browning

VISIT OF CANNOCK BAND

Cannock Band will be with us for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 26/27 April 2003.
Come and support. Make their visit to Risca a memorable one!

The programme will be as follows:

Saturday 26 April 2003	7pm	Evening Festival
Sunday 27 April 2003	10am	Morning Worship
	11-45am	Open Air Ministry
	4pm	Evening Worship

The Risca Corps Retreat has been booked!

THE retreat will take place
Friday 19—Sunday 21 November 2004
at the Lindors Centre, Lydney, Gloucestershire

Situated in the Welsh borders between Monmouth and Chepstow, Lindors is a charming 19th century property. Set in nine acres of gardens through which a brook descends by a series of waterfalls and pools to the River Wye.

Facilities include a heated indoor swimming pool, coffee shop selling light meals, refreshments and gifts, lounge, tennis, putting, croquet, flat green bowls, netball, five-a-side football and table tennis.

- Why are we having a retreat?
- What is a retreat?
- Who will be leading it?

Why are we having a retreat? To enable us to be refreshed spiritually and to be united as a corps. To increase friendships and love between us away from it all and to seek God.

What is a retreat? A retreat is a residential time when individuals or a corps can participate in worship, reflection, prayer and relaxation with the aim being to be brought closer to God and Spiritually uplifted. It's also a time of fun and laughter as free time will bring lots of opportunities for socialising.

Who will be leading it? We have approached Jani and Clive Ruberey however we have not had any confirmation as such, they may not yet be able to accept.

The finer details, as you can see, have not yet been completed. Costs, programme content etc etc has not been finalised. But as soon as it has—we will be told! It is hoped that the following will be part of the programme:



RISCA CORPS RETREAT 2004



Retreat/v&n—

**withdrawal into
privacy or
security—**

**a place for shelter
or seclusion—**

**a period of
seclusion for
prayer and
meditation**

What do you think the retreat should include?

Go to any member of the Corps Council and chat about it. Your thoughts on this are important. It is **your** retreat.

Not sure who is on the Corps Council?

Here are the members:

- Divisional Commander (Ex Officio)
- Captain Robert Jepson
- Captain Julia Jepson
- CSM Ian Brill
- Bandmaster Ian Browning
- Songster Leader John Gregory
- Corps Secretary Pam Brill
- Corps Treasurer Margaret Gregory
- AYPSM Sara Browning
- S/C Ldr David Gregory
- Guider Pam Parnell
- Quartermaster Steve Jenkins
- Songster Claire Durrant
- AJSS Val Barclay
- Songster Mal Williams



TATER PEOPLE

- Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work.
They are called 'Spec Taters'
- Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.
They are called 'Comment Taters'
 - Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands.
They are called 'Dick Taters'
 - Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot to too cold, too sour or too sweet.
They are called 'Agie Taters'
 - There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.
They are called 'Hezzie Taters'
 - Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not.
They are called 'Emma Taters'
- Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.
They are called 'Sweet Taters'



Which are you?

PAKISTAN

I HAVE received word from Pakistan and they would like us to pray for the following:

- That the rulers of the countries will seek God and not go to war
- If there is war, God will protect the Christians as this is bound to be seen as a Muslim- Christians war and we fear retaliation
- In this month of Muharram (Muslin month of mourning) the two Muslim sections will live peacefully with each other
- The International Secretary and the Zonal Secretary, Commissioners Paul and Margaret Du Plessis are planning to visit Pakistan in April. Please pray for their safety and a time of blessing for us, during their visit in Pakistan.
- Commissioning of the Believers Session in April. We have 42 Cadets
- That God may guide us and give the Candidate Council wisdom when they make the final decision regarding the new Session of Cadets.

I would love to receive the following items of clothing to send to Pakistan:

- Little dresses or skirts for girls
- Little trousers and t-shirts for boys
- No more knitted items are needed at present

Thank you all very much for your support for this country. It is close to my heart.

God bless
Phyllis Browning

**THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS
2003/2004 CALENDAR**

Saturday/Sunday 5/6 April	Opening of Refurbished Hall
Tuesday 8	Adult Ministry Rally
Friday 11	Lent Bible Study at the hall, 7-30pm
Saturday 12	Holy Spirit Day for ALPHA Course at Newport SA
Sunday 13	Junior Soldier Day of Renewal including prize giving during the 6pm service. 2-15pm Palm Sunday March of Witness—meet at Mill Street Car Park
Thursday 17	Maundy Thursday Meeting—7-30pm
Friday 18	Good Friday Meeting—7-30pm
Sunday 20	Easter Sunday—10am and 6pm (Breakfast at 8am)
Saturday/Sunday 26/27	Visit of Cannock Band
Friday 2 May	Roots Weekend, Southport
Friday 9	Buffet and Quiz Evening – 7-30pm Live music from Rob Barrowdale and Co. Prizes will be good. Invite people onto your team who don't normally attend the Army.
Thursday 15	Visit of Andrew Blyth to band rehearsal
Friday 16	Celyen Band and Risca Singing Company in concert (tbc)
Saturday 17	Farewell of Divisional Leaders, Majors Mike and Joan Parker, 7pm, Llanelli SA Visit of Chief Secretary Colonel Vic Poke and Mrs Colonel R Poke
Monday 19	Corps Council Meeting—7-30pm at the hall
Wednesday 4 June	Divisional Welcome to New Officers
Sunday 8	Music Leaders Councils, London
Saturday 14	YP BBQ
Wednesday 25	Installation of new Divisional Leaders
Saturday/Sunday 21/22	YP Outing/YP Anniversary with Lt Ian Walford, DYO, Southern Division
Wednesday 25	Divisional Welcome to Majors Peter and Sandra Moran To be led by Territorial Commander, Commissioner Alex Hughes
Friday 27	Annual Review of Planned Giving Programme, Corps Finances and Programme 7-30pm at the hall —Please bring food to share
Friday 4 July	SP&S Roadshow at the hall
Saturday 5	SP&S Roadshow at the hall /Buy-as-you-View Cory Band Concert
Sunday 6	Annual Service for the Risca and Crosskeys Council of Churches 6-15pm—Trinity Church, Pontywaun
Tuesday 8	Officers Retreat
Friday 11	Band at Cwmfelinfach (tbc)
Saturday 26 – August 4	Re-Generation Mission to Dublin
Monday 4 – Friday 8 August	Holiday Club
Saturday 9	Junior Soldiers Camp
?? 29—1 September	Youth Holiday to Christian Mountain Centre, Llanbedr
Sunday 7	Divisional Annual Appeal Launch
Saturday 13	Annual Appeal Collecting commences
Saturday/Sunday 13/14	Corps Anniversary with Major Christine Bailey, THQ
Friday 26	New Horizons Holiday Week commences
Monday 29	Third <i>Alpha Course</i> commences
Saturday 4 October	Power House – Divisional Community Care Ministries Conference (tbc)
Sunday 5	Harvest Celebrations
Saturday 11	<i>KIDS ALIVE!</i> Fun Day
Wednesday 29	Power House – Divisional Resource Day
Wednesday 29 – Friday 31	Division at Territorial Officers Councils
Saturday 1 November	Salvation Army in Celebration (Day with God)
Saturday 1	Bonfire Party
Tuesday 4	Power House – Divisional Resource Day
Sunday 9	Territorial Campaign Week/Re membrane Sunday/Volunteer Sunday
Wednesday 12	Power House – Worship
Friday 14	Power House – Ladies Retreat
Saturday/Sunday 15/16	Songster Weekend with Cradley Heath Songsters
Saturday/Sunday 22/23	Youth Councils
Friday/Saturday 28/29	Gang Show by BP Sections
Saturday 6 December	Civic Carol Service
Sunday 14	YP Carol Service
Sunday 21	Corps Carol Service
Thursday 25	Christmas Day Morning Service
2004	
Saturday/Sunday 25/26 January	YP Annual with Captains Doug and Michelle Hayter
Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun 26/27/28/29 Feb	Visit of Mike and Jenny Clark
Saturday/Sunday 21/22 March	Mothers Day/Home League Weekend
Saturday/Sunday 17/18 April	Band Weekend
Saturday/Sunday 26/27 June	YP Anniversary with Captains Govier
Saturday/Sunday 13/14 Nov	Songster Weekend—led by Majors Ian and Yvonne Field

WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday:	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School Youth Group Re:Generation
	4-45pm:	Open Air Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
Monday:	4pm—5pm:	Risca Home League
	7-30pm—9-45pm:	<i>Alpha Course</i>
Tuesday:	10am – 11-30am:	Parent & Toddlers
	7-45pm	Songsters
Wednesday:	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)
Thursday:	7-30pm	Band Rehearsal

The 7 Ups

1. Wake Up !!

Decide to have a good day.

"This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24

2. Dress Up !!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up!!

... for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..." Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up !!

... to the Lord. "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me". Philippians 4:13

6. Reach Up !!

... for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

7. Lift Up !!

... your Prayers. "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." Philippians 4:6