

THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS

Revelations!

Issue: Easter 2004

Dates for your diary...

Maundy Thursday—6pm

Easter Garden

An hour for parents and their children to make an Easter garden. Easter eggs and refreshments provided

Good Friday—7-15pm

Service

Easter Sunday—10-30am

Joint services with Bethany Baptist

Sunday 18 April

Junior Soldier's Day of Renewal

Singing Company Leader Althea Bawden, Derby Central

Monday 19 April—7-15pm

Burning Questions—full rehearsal

Saturday/Sunday 24/25 April

Songsters away at Cradley Heath

Monday 26 April—7-15pm

Burning Questions—full rehearsal

Tuesday 27 April

Home and Family Rally, Port Talbot

Saturday 8 May

Band to Williamstown

Sunday 9 May

Candidates Sunday

Friday 14 May

Burning Questions Musical

Friday 21 May—7-30pm

Regeneration Youth Event at Risca
£1-50 entrance fee

Saturday 29 May

Commissioning

Monday 28 June —7-30pm

Corps Council

Tuesday 27 July

CAMEO Club Annual Outing

Monday 2 August—Friday 6 August

Summer Holiday Club 'Xpedition Force'

27-31 August

Youth Holiday to CMC

Monday 13 September —7-30pm

Corps Council

Saturday 18 Sept—Sunday 3 October

Annual Appeal

Saturday/Sunday 18/19 September

Corps Anniversary

Monday 27 September

Alpha Supper

Majors Derek and Susan Jones, THQ

Saturday/Sunday 2/3 October

Harvest

Monday 4 October

Alpha Course commences

Saturday/Sunday 23/24 October

Band away at Bexleyheath

Thursday 11 November

Remembrance Day festival

Friday 12 November 2004—7-30pm

Corps Council

Sunday 14 November

Remembrance Sunday/Volunteer Sunday

Saturday/Sunday 20/21 November

Songster Weekend

Majors Ian and Yvonne Field

Saturday/Sunday 27-28 November

Youth Councils

Saturday 4 December

Civic Carol Service

Sunday 12 December

YP Carol Service

Sunday 19 December—6pm

Corps Carol Service

Saturday 25 December—10-30am

Christmas Morning Service

Sunday 26 December

No services

Sunday 2 January—10am

Morning service only

Inside this issue:

Captains Comment

Bandstand

Planned Giving Programme

Moses

Church Union

The PCC

A Word From The SL

Prayer Meeting

And Finally

RISCA CORPS
presents

**VISIT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
STAFF BAND**
(*Bandmaster Steve Cobb*)

**Saturday/Sunday
26/27 February 2005**

*Watch this space for
further details!*

Risca Salvation Army - a family church for everyone!

Captains Comment...

How is it women can forget the pain of childbirth enough to go through it all again?! These were my very thoughts during the birth of Alice. At one stage the pain reached levels I had not experienced before, yet all was forgotten once I gazed into the face of my newborn baby.



I reflected on this after reading an article in the paper about Mel Gibson's new controversial film 'The Passion of Christ'. The film gives coverage of the crucifixion for 25 minutes in a very graphic and violent detail. Critics have said the extent of the violence is unnecessary and that Gibson has put his career on the line because of this and other factors. Gibson defends himself, stating he did much research with many theologians for the facts and as a devout Catholic, he reasons this was the reality of the horrific Roman crucifixion death.

The Rev Ian Waugh went to a Ministers viewing of the film and was deeply impressed and moved by it. Whatever our opinion of the film—when it is released—there is no escaping the fact that the crucifixion was a barbaric sight and the extent of the pain and suffering Jesus went through is

something we will never truly grasp.

If the pain of childbirth can be unpleasant, I thought to myself how much more than this did Jesus suffer. He had no pain relief, no medical staff to help him. Just torture, mocking and pain. As we can delight in the arrival of a newborn baby after the pain, let us delight and feel blessed for what Jesus did for us.

As we approach Easter, let us all reflect on the blessings we receive from Jesus in our lives and the sacrifice Jesus paid for us.

For reflection, I will leave you with the words of the following chorus:

*I am blessed
I am blessed
Every day that I live
I am blessed
When I wake up in the morning
Or I lay my head to rest
I am blessed
I am blessed*

God bless you all.

Captain Julia



THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

The most basic human questions are 'Why am I here?' and 'What is my purpose?' Rick Warren presents an essential manifesto for Christian living in the twenty first century.

IF YOU WANT TO WALK ON THE WATER YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE BOAT

What is your boat? What keeps you so comfortable that you don't want to give it up even when it keeps you from joining Jesus on the water? John Ortberg, Teaching Pastor at Willow Creek Community Church, shows you how to experience the power of God in your life to do the things you wouldn't be capable of doing on your own.



THINGS THEY DIDN'T TEACH ME IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

In a new edition of this best-selling inspirational book, Rob Parsons adds more of his customary stories and anecdotes to enliven the pages and bring new heart to this already established classic. Some of the lessons learnt along the way will change forever the way we view ourselves, others and especially God. A book filled with fresh starts, new tomorrows and incredible hope.

WOW HITS 2004 CD

A must-have collection of this year's 30 top Christian hits on double CD. Featuring an impressive range of artists including, Jars of Clay, Stacie Orrico, Michael W. Smith, Sixpence None The Richer, Toby Mac, Jaci Velasquez, Amy Grant and many more!



Bandstand...
BM Ian
Browning



- **Spring Concert 2004**

What a fabulous evening we had. The grand total of £500 was raised for The Sparkle Appeal. It was great to see the hall full. Wow—there was a lot of potential contained within the hall! The Blaenavon Male Voice Choir were entertaining, our compere, Don Touhig, led us through the evening with ease, Carl Saunders and Nigel John were a delight to work with. They are extremely musically talented aren't they. So many positive comments were received about our special guests. I was proud, as ever, to be the Bandmaster of our corps band. It's not many corps bands who get to work with two musical 'giants' in one evening! To all those who helped out in any way—thank you! The total was raised together as we proved, once again, how we can work as a team.

- **Visitors to Band Rehearsal**

Visitors to band rehearsal lately have included the Divisional Commander, Major Peter Moran, and Stan Harry. Both were warmly accepted by the band and brought words of encouragement to us. I'm not sure it will ever be forgotten that I introduced the DC as Major Peter Disney! He reminded us all what being a member of the band is all about and how we should remain focused on the main goal on bringing people to Christ. Leading devotions on Thursday 20 May 2004 will be Major Paul Main, Divisional Director for Evangelism. For those who do occasionally 'pop in' there is no band rehearsal on Thursday 22 April 2004.

- **Band Locals**

Risca Band currently has a Colour Sergeant (Dean Brill) and Librarian (Daniel Jenkins). They assist me to the best of their ability and all their help is appreciated. I am delighted that coming on board to join us is Claire Durrant as Band Secretary. Please pray, along with me, that God will provide us with the following locals to join the team: Deputy Bandmaster, Band Sergeant and Asst Band Secretary. Our first band locals meeting will be taking place shortly. Part of the Agenda for that meeting is our mission statement, the band roll and friends roll. Pray for us as we consider and confirm, once again, what we are about and how we go about reaching the people who do not yet know the love of God, some who do know the love of God but don't acknowledge it and those who do acknowledge it but find it hard to worship with us week by week.

Claire asked me to update you all on my goal of losing weight. Well, you can see for yourself! I need to keep motivated. I need to keep passing the Chinese and Indian takeaways. I need to do more exercise. This dieting lark is dull isn't it. I want to be able to eat whatever, whenever and still look good. I can hear you all saying '...that Ian Browning, he wants to have his cake and to eat it...' Yes I do! You are right! I don't want to change the great lifestyle I have been enjoying. However, if I want good health I need to.

You know when we look at the Ten Commandments and see all the things we are not supposed to do—life can seem dull. But it isn't, is it? Being a Christian is just the most exciting and motivating existence ever. And when we look at our Articles of War and see all the things we signed we wouldn't do—life can seem impossible. It isn't this either, but it does require us to change though. To achieve my goal of losing weight, I have had to change my eating habits, my exercise regime, etc, etc. To be an integral Christian, I need to change my innermost thoughts and desires.

Change is all around us. In our personal lives. In our families and with our friends. In all our circumstances. In our church. In our community. As the people of God we are certainly not exempt from change or its force. Someone once said 'Perhaps one of the most significant questions the people of God face in the midst of rapidly changing times is, "How are we to face the challenge of a changing world?'

Change is not easy but it is inevitable. The problem with change is how we respond. Howard Hendricks notes there are three stages people go through when confronted with change: **Resistance** to change, **Tolerant** to change, **Embrace** the change.

My life has changed. My life is changing. Has yours? Is yours? You know we read in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 that there is a time for everything. I can cope with all change in whatever circumstance because I have a loving Heavenly Father who is there for me and will make me deal with no more than I can handle. I hope and pray it is the same for you.

We live in a world that needs to change. A world that needs to embrace God's love and to acknowledge Him as Lord and Saviour. It's up to each of us to point the changes required out to people. Some will face that task boldly, others quietly; some will let their lives reflect Jesus and need say nothing at all, while others will sadly shy away from the task altogether.

As we read in Matthew 5, my favourite chapter at the moment, we are here to be '...salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. You are here to be light, ...bringing out the God-colours in the world. *God is not a secret to be kept.* We're going public with this, ... as public as a city on a hill. If I make you lightbearers, you don't think I am going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand ...*shine!*

It's my prayer that each of us will let this passage guide the decision we make about how we will fulfil the great commission!

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME

We have the opportunity to host another programme at the corps. This will take place from 3 June—21 June 2004.

A Planned Giving Programme is an extremely Spirit filled, God given way of looking at our personal spiritual giving. Our corps benefited by a 40% increased in income through this programme. The aims this time are not necessarily to gain financially but to gain blessings from the Lord through our 'right' giving.

The programme details will be announced after Mr Alan Crawford has been to initially visit the leaders of the corps. He is the Planned Giving Consultant and will be at the corps from Wednesday 14—Friday 16 April 2004. From his visit he will decide what type of programme we will find best for us as a corps.

Let's be positive about this programme and pray that it will improve the spiritual temperature of our church.

Our last programme should have realised £506 per week. We have reached an average of about £477 per week.

We have done well to gain this but perhaps a further look at the situation will help us to make our corps self supporting and able to invest money into mission and community care.

*Robert Jepson
Captain*

www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk

It's been a few months since I let you all know what's going on with our church website. For those of you who are new, the URL (the address you need to key-in to your browser) is <http://www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk>.

Although it's not immediately apparent, lots has been going on to keep the site up and running. Firstly, our claim on the domain name (the [riscasalvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk) bit of the address) has been renewed for a further 2 years. Secondly, and probably of more interest to the technical amongst you, the company which hosts the site (makes our information available to the world) has been changed. Both of these things, whilst seemingly dull, are essential parts of running a site & cost money. However I'm happy to say that the site has been totally funded by donations from it's inception & so hasn't actually cost the church anything.

There have been more visible changes too, with the Alpha and A Life Worth Living courses now having new pages. The corps council regularly discusses the website & I have, because of this, received updates for many of the pages ... but I'm sad to say that the site is still lacking a lot of information about what makes our church what it is.

If anyone has any ideas, original or otherwise, please contact me (or you could always email webmaster@riscasalvationarmy.org.uk)

Deryk Durrant



**Risca Corps
-
A Family
Church
For
Everyone!**

The Silver Tree

What is The Silver Tree?

The Silver Tree was designed for people to use their talents throughout the year and present them before God in a special Silver Tree Service. The Silver Tree replaced the Sale of Work. Over £1,000 is usually raised in this way. The Silver Tree recognises that everything we own and every gift we have is a direct gift from God.

Who does what for The Silver Tree?

Margaret Gregory

Pickles onions, bakes cakes and sews

Phyllis Browning

Bakes boiled fruit cakes

Beryl Parfitt

Sews

Pam Thomas

Sells various things on a Wednesday at Luncheon Club

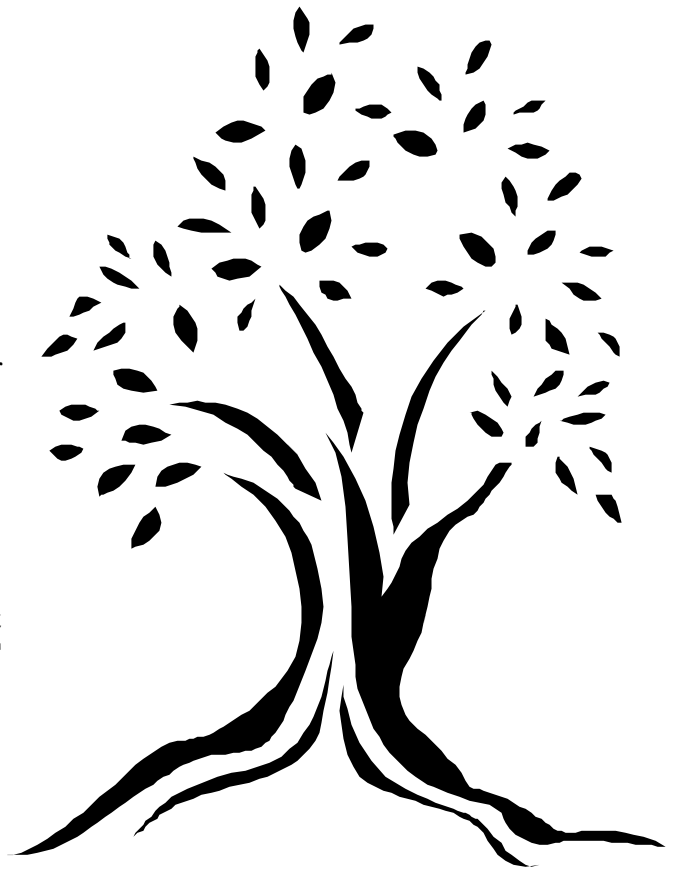
Denise Jenkins

Makes and sells cross stitch cards

Ada Terrell

Donates her talent and any donations given through our holiness table flowers

Can you support the work of The Silver Tree? If you fancy purchasing any of the above items please see the personnel involved. If you have a talent that can be used for The Silver Tree, please see CT Margaret Gregory.



Fellowship: There are three ways we can get together:

- First, we can be like popcorn in a popper and explode at each other
- Second, we can be like ice cubes in a refrigerator and freeze together
- Third, we can be like a box of chocolates in the summer and melt together

Witnessing:

I am just a nobody, telling anybody, about somebody who can save everybody!

What are you doing?

KIDS CORNER

Over the next three months the young people have only three special events to date:

- KIDSALIVE! Fun Day—3 April
- Junior Soldier's Day of Renewal—18 April
- Sunday School Anniversary—26/27 June

We are delighted that leading us in our day of Renewal will be Singing Company Leader Althea Bawden and for our Anniversary we have Majors Nigel and Linda Govier.

Information regarding these events will be given nearer the time.

In Sunday School we use the Scripture Union Material called SALT. They set out a bible learning plan to help teachers explore with the children the different stories and lessons from the bible. Over the next three months we will be reading:

- An Easter series from John Commencing in April from Chapter 11 and concluding on 25 April with Chapter 21
- Through May we have a two week evangelistic series taken from Acts 8. Life giving Spirit starts our series for Pentecost reading from John 7, 14 and 20.
- In June we learn about young Samuel entitled A Life for God this will include 1 Samuel 1, 3, 7 and 9.

I thought I would list out all the readings the children will be learning from in the hope that perhaps we could all be reading and learning together, and perhaps talk and think about the same things. I think it would be very encouraging for the children if we could all be on the same wavelength at the same time.

We are never too old to learn and I trust that God will bless us and be with us over the next few months as we grow in knowledge and understanding.

What else is happening in the YP corps? There has been some discussion of a change of YP uniform—watch this space....!

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR YOUTH

Online Bible:	http://bible.gospelcom.net
Fun stuff:	fish.co.uk/culture/games/0204games.htm www.minipops.net www.godlaughs.net
Worship:	www.proost.co.uk www.soulsurvivor.com
Training:	www.youthwork.co.uk/conference
Discipleship:	www.damaris.org www.24-7prayer.com
Mission:	www.merseyfest.com
Salvation Army:	www.youthministry.co.uk www.rootsonline.org

MOSES...By Songster Denise Jenkins

ABRAHAM had a son, Isaac. Isaac's son, Jacob, had 12 sons, one of whom was Joseph. Jealousy amongst Jacob's sons against Joseph caused them to sell him to be a slave in Egypt. When there was famine all over Egypt and Canaan some years later Jacob heard there was corn in Egypt and sent his sons there in search of good. Eventually he joined them there himself and this is how the children of Israel came to live in Egypt—75 people. (Acts 7:14)

Later, there was a new king in Egypt who was cruel. He commanded that all Israelite baby boys should be drowned. Moses was born at this time.

Moses is a fairly well known character of the Old Testament. His birth is a familiar story especially told to children, and he is the person to whom God gave the Ten Commandments when in the wilderness. Moses' story is told in the books of Exodus to Deuteronomy. He is also mentioned in Acts and Hebrews.

THE LIFE OF MOSES

Moses was born to a Levite family. His mother and father were Jochebed and Amram. He had a brother, Aaron and a sister, Miriam. He lived at home for three months before his mother hid him because of Pharaoh's order to drown every boy born to Hebrew women.

Moses was placed in a waterproof basket and hidden amongst the reeds on the River Nile. This also gave him some insulation from the weather. Miriam, his sister, remained nearby to keep a watch on him. Moses' mother knew how wrong it would be to kill her child so did the only thing she could to try to save him. Pharaoh's daughter, while bathing in the Nile, saw the basket and rescued the boy and realised that this was a Hebrew baby. Miriam, after approaching the Pharaoh's daughter to ask, went to get the baby's mother to care for the baby.

We do not know if Miriam was afraid of the princess or even if the princess was wary of Miriam—we do know that Miriam approached the princess and the princess paid Miriam's mother to look after the baby.

The opportunity was not wasted and the family was reunited.

Do we miss an opportunity because we fear the outcome? Opportunities come our way unexpectedly and we should take full advantage of them, allowing God to manage the results. Because of Moses' mother's courageousness in hiding her baby, God was able to use her act to begin his plan for rescuing his people from Egypt. God doesn't need much from us to accomplish his plans for our lives. We may be unable to see through our troubles, but all we need to do is to focus on God and trust him for the way out.

We do not know anymore about Moses' childhood other than being taught Hebrew culture and being brought up an Egyptian prince.

When Moses was an adult he came across an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. When he thought no-one was looking he killed and buried the Egyptian. The next day Moses came across two Hebrews fighting and became aware that he was seen when he killed the Egyptian. Pharaoh heard of this and tried to kill Moses, so Moses fled and lived in Midian. Moses was sat by a well and 7 girls went to draw water to fill the troughs of their flocks. Shepherds drove the girls away but Moses came to their rescue and watered the flock. The girls returned and explained what had happened to their father and Moses went to stay with them. Moses married one of the girls, Zipporah, and they had a son—Gershom.

The king of Egypt died and the Israelites cry for help because of their slavery was heard by God. God remembered his covenant with Abraham and was concerned for the Israelite people. Moses became a stranger in a strange land and was separated from his house and family. It took many years but Moses trusted God and so should we, no matter how dark the future seems.

Moses was an Egyptian prince and well trained in he Egyptian military. The shepherds would have been no match for the fighting techniques of an Egyptian soldier. So, Moses ended up with a place to stay, shelter and good. God knows when to act. God knows the right time. God does not forget us and keeps the promises he makes.

To Ponder:...

Who named Moses?

His mother or Pharaoh's daughter?

Adult & Community...Keith Ferrier

FOR the last three years I have been the Over Sixties Secretary. When I was asked to take on the job I was a little nervous, after thinking about it I thought it was the Lord who was moving me so I gave the job a try. I had already been a member of the Over Sixty group for about one year, then I found myself for the next three years organizing the Risca group to The Salvation Army Over 60's Congress at Paignton. They were three years which I thoroughly enjoyed. Our members of the Over Sixties group were getting less and less and also the ladies of the Home League ladies group. It was then decided that we would amalgamate and the CAMEO club was formed and held at the Army every Monday at 4pm. There is a small group of us that take the meeting in turns. This last year with the CAMEO club has given me a tremendous amount of pleasure. They are a wonderful group of people. We always know the way to enjoy ourselves and how to have a laugh.

I have also thanked God for the gift of photography. I started attending an art class after my wife died for something to do. Photography and art give you chance to see the wonderful things around you like landscapes, flowers, trees, rivers etc.

During one CAMEO afternoon a total of £42-98 was collected to husband and wife, John and Diana Whittle, who have been travelling to countries of Europe where fighting is uprising and war has taken place.

Our CAMEO club is wonderful however we do need more people to come and join us. It is open to men and women from the age of 55 years. We also need people to come along and talk to us or entertain us. Can you help? It may be that you will introduce us to someone who will give us an afternoon to entertain us. We would be very grateful.

Thank you for reading this article. God bless you.

Keith

*Parent and Toddlers...
Dinner Club...CAMEO
Club...Bible Study...
Guides...Brownies...
Rainbows...Community
Care Ministries*

Leading up to the 24/1 prayer wave the youth cell group—regeneration—have completed a series of studies specially designed to lead us to pray for issues. The Territorial Youth Ministries Unit provided the material which gave us some interesting stats and comments from youth of all ages. Bible investigation provided a way through issues raised which then led to prayer. Each member of our cell have been able to pray at the end of our meetings. Subjects covered over the last two months have been: church, friends, drug abuse, family life and the future. All our prayers for the youth were brought to the sleepover and prayer event we held.

It has been a real encouragement to see both **Natalie** and **Carolyn** make their vows to God and become senior soldiers. We do thank those who have personally encouraged them in their decision making. God is doing something great amongst our youth and we are grateful to him for his guidance and work.

- **Nathan** and **Natalie** ventured to the Territorial Youth Band and Chorus respectively in Bournemouth a short while ago. We are proud to know that they represented us at these schools and we encourage them in their music making for the Lord. **Daniel** and **Dean** have been helping out in the youth. They have led two sessions in my absence and have done really well. It's good to know that our young adults are so willing to take on responsibility. If you see them, please encourage them.

Once again the youth will be making plans to go away on a four day holiday to the Christian Mountain Centre in Llandebr. We want to encourage our youth members to come along and bring a friend with them. **Matthew** and **Natalie** are keen to raise money for this event and so, along with the other youth members, they are planning a sponsored bike ride and an evening of talent with food! Please support if you can. We need to raise £500.

One of our future aims is to contact former Junior Soldiers and Sunday School members who are now teenagers inviting them to come and join with us on a social event.

Our membership will increase this year as we welcome both **Rebecca Brill** and **Sian Jenkins** to the group in September.

Stuart and **Jordan** continue to be loyal members of the cell group and it's great to see their willingness.

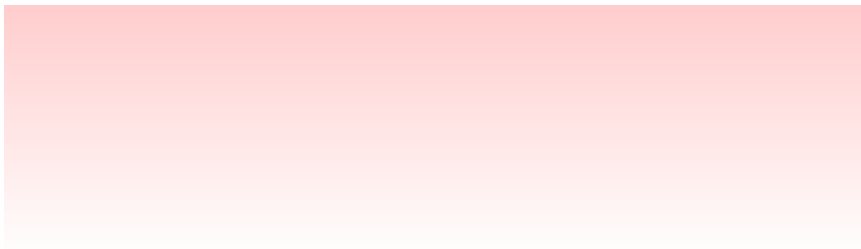
We look forward to a visit from **Tim Reynolds**, who is standing in for Major Paul Main for youth work, on 28 March. Tim will be with us worshipping on Sunday morning and will lead our cell group.

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**Partners
In
Prayer**



**Deliberate
Discussion!**



FINANCES ... CT Margaret Gregory

Pledged Giving this quarter—13 weeks in total:

£6,274-82	Pledged
£10-52	Unpledged
£566-67	Offering

Silver Tree 2003:

£783-10

Altar Service 2004—to date:

£963-10

Christmas Carolling 2003:

£8,200

Community Care Ministries Fund:

The Community Care Ministries Fund helps out with visitation of the community and buys things like cards and flowers, if required. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see me

*Risca Corps Building
Fund—£3,332-51*

PAKISTAN

Dear Phyllis and all at Risca Corps:

I hope you had a good Christmas, although I can imagine it may not have been exactly restful—Salvation Army Christmases often aren't!

Thank you for your continued interest, support and prayers for the people of Pakistan. May 2004 be a year of peace, happiness and blessing for you all.

Yours sincerely

John Dyall

Lieut Colonel

Chief Secretary—Pakistan Territory

***THE PASSION
OF THE CHRIST***

Released on 26 March 2004

*For more information:
www.passionofthechrist.co.uk*

*[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/
film/3489946.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/film/3489946.stm)*

**WEBB IVORY
CHRISTMAS 2004**

There have been no takers! Surely someone out there would like to help raise funds for the corps.

Would you like to take on Webb Ivory for Christmas 2004? If so, please see CT Margaret Gregory.

CHURCH UNION

ACSM Alan Gregory contributes another topic, controversial article for people to sit up and take notice...

UNION in the church is something I have been praying for since attending an Alpha conference in London a few years ago. I find the way different denominations treat each other to be appalling. At times a denomination can even question the right of another denomination to call itself a Christian church. I have experienced such criticism first hand while swimming at Maindy pool in Cardiff. I regularly meet a retired lecturer who is a Baptist. On one occasion the topic of Christianity came into the conversation. I explained that I was a soldier in the Salvation Army and his response was that he did not consider the Army to be a church because it does not partake in communion and baptism. People who put such conditions on Christianity are described in Philippians 3:1-11 as “dog” that do evil. It is disheartening to know that things have not changed in nearly 2000 years.

Things are not all doom and gloom; we have experienced in the last year or so a positive friendship with those from Bethany Baptist. Even now we share together in preparing a play “Burning Questions”, supporting and strengthening each other while worshipping together. Those outside the church see such a stand of togetherness in Christ in a positive light. There may even be those who call for greater unification in the church, and think that a church that has less differentiation will be more attractive to non-Christians.

I however believe that one of the church’s greatest strengths is its differentiation, its ability to serve one God in a variety of different ways, situations and places is miraculous. The number of denominations enables those who seek God to find a home where they feel friendship, normality a sense of belonging. This is attractive to non-Christians, without the general public or Christians realising it.

Imagine a shoe market that has a single supplier producing one product, winkle pickers. The option for a consumer (everyone who needs footwear) is either to buy winkle pickers or not to buy any footwear. Now think of a shoe market with a large number of suppliers that produce different products e.g. trainers, heels, boots, casual, formal, etc. The consumer in this instance has a greater choice therefore selects the shoe that fits.

Which shoe market would you rather be in? I know as a consumer that I have preferences about shoes that are based on likes/dislikes, interests, lifestyle, personality, situation, wealth, etc. In the same way non-Christians have preferences, which can only be catered for with high levels of choice. The greater the choice or opportunity Christianity offers non-Christians the greater its attraction.

Each denomination has a niche market that it appeals to, and The Salvation Army is no different. It saddens me to think that the Army’s appeal may be jeopardised if a proposed move from the training college at Denmark Hill to the Church of England’s St John’s college goes ahead.

An article in the Salvationist 13 December 2003 emphasises the unique calling of Salvation Army officers and the direct approach the Army has towards showing God’s love through social action. Although a move to St John’s may not align theological teaching of both denominations it may dilute the Army’s mission, and ultimately lead to the Army’s becoming subservient to the Church of England. This would result in a loss of credibility for the Army’s community work and ministry, and a loss of relevance in a world that needs to be shown God’s love.

I do support greater church unity but must draw the line at the thought of aligning denomination with each other. This is not a case of discrimination or pride in the Army but a true belief that God has called the Army to do a good work in a world with changing needs. If there is a real problem with the facilities at Denmark Hill a move may be justified if it was one that would result in a more favourable **discipling** environment. Even so a new purpose built college would be the most appropriate move not an amalgamation with St John’s, which leads me to think that cost is the main foundation of such a move. I pray that God will continue to guide each denomination on its own path of salvation.

At Home

...

At Home...with Risca Band and Guests

A lovely evening, good entertainment, moving music, special musical talent...were just some of the comments heard at the first **At Home...with Risca Band and Guests**.

Even the snow didn't stop people attending the first At Home... event. The weekly band rehearsal was opened up to corps and churches within the surrounding area. Alongside the corps band, was Mel Hart from THQ who introduced special guests Mike German, A M , and Derick Kane from THQ. Mel invited the guests to share what music means to them, where they are in their faith and how their faith helps them in their "day job". Although unrehearsed with the band, Derick performed Song of the Brother and Ochills. He then put the band through it's paces as he led rehearsals of Prelude on

Tallis and The Great Celebration. The evening brought to life a boyhood dream of Mike as he took the baton for Montreal Citadel. As the snow continued to fall the evening was brought to an earlier than anticipated close with a prayer and the wonderful benediction of the band playing In Perfect Peace.

Mike German, in subsequent correspondence with Ian, said: '...Can I say how much I enjoyed myself last Thursday. I was not able to drive to my home that night because of the snow, and I had to walk the last half mile, but it was well worth it. Can you please thank the Band from me, for giving me a great opportunity to pick up the baton once again? In the face of such talent I was deeply humbled.

Ian was pleased with the event, I am really praying that this new venture will be successful. To get new people—Christian or non-Christian through our doors here at Risca will be a really positive achievement. Let's work together at doing it as a team.

If you have any questions you would like to put to the visiting guests or would like to request a piece of music for the band to play—please see Claire Durrant. Thanks.

At Home...with Risca Band and Guests

Watch this space for the next event!

ARMY PEOPLE!

- **Ruth Jenkins**, enrolled as a Junior Soldier and Singing Company member
- **Carolyn Parker**, enrolled as a Senior Soldier
- **Natalie Browning**, commissioned as a Bandswoman/Songster
- **Claire Durrant**, commissioned as Band Secretary
- **Keith and Nancy Jordan**, enrolled as Senior Soldiers

THE PASTORAL CARE COUNCIL

The Pastoral Care Council (PCC) exists for the highly important purpose of exercising pastoral care towards the whole corps fellowship, such care to include praying for, visiting and training those in that fellowship.

The Council should periodically review and revise the relevant rolls and keep them in satisfactory condition. The fulfilment of this purpose involves responsibility for those enrolled, in that the PCC is required to: accept recruits, accept for soldiership converted persons who have signed the Articles of War and who fulfil the requirements of soldiership, accept for adherency who fulfil the stipulated conditions, watch over all YP recruits, adherents, converts, recruits and soldiers with a view to encouraging and training them, as well as preventing fall away and loss, remove name from rolls when necessary.

The membership of the PCC at our corps is:

- Captains Robert and Julia Jepson
- Corps Secretary Pam Brill
- Corps Treasurer Margaret Gregory
- Bandmaster Ian Browning
- Songster Leader John Gregory
- YPSM Sara Browning

PCC meetings are held quarterly, annually and specially. A PCC meeting may not be held without the attendance of the CO or the DC, or an officer appointed by the DC. The CO may not introduce, or allow to be introduced, to a PCC meeting, any person other than those authorised to be present. The Corps Secretary usually acts as Secretary to the Council.

The rolls and related books needed for revision at a PCC meeting are: seekers' register, cartridge book, soldiers' roll, recruits' roll, adherents' roll, supplementary roll, corps statistical book, CO's visitation book.

The deliberations of the PCC are treated as strictly confidential.

We currently have the following senior local positions unfilled: Corps Sergeant Major, Recruiting Sergeant, Corps Cadet Guardian, Deputy Bandmaster, Band Sergeant, Deputy Songster Leader, Organising Secretary, Corps Press Representative, Community Care Ministries Secretary, Assistant Young People's Sergeant Major, Home League Secretary, Corps Mission Secretary and Adherents Secretary.

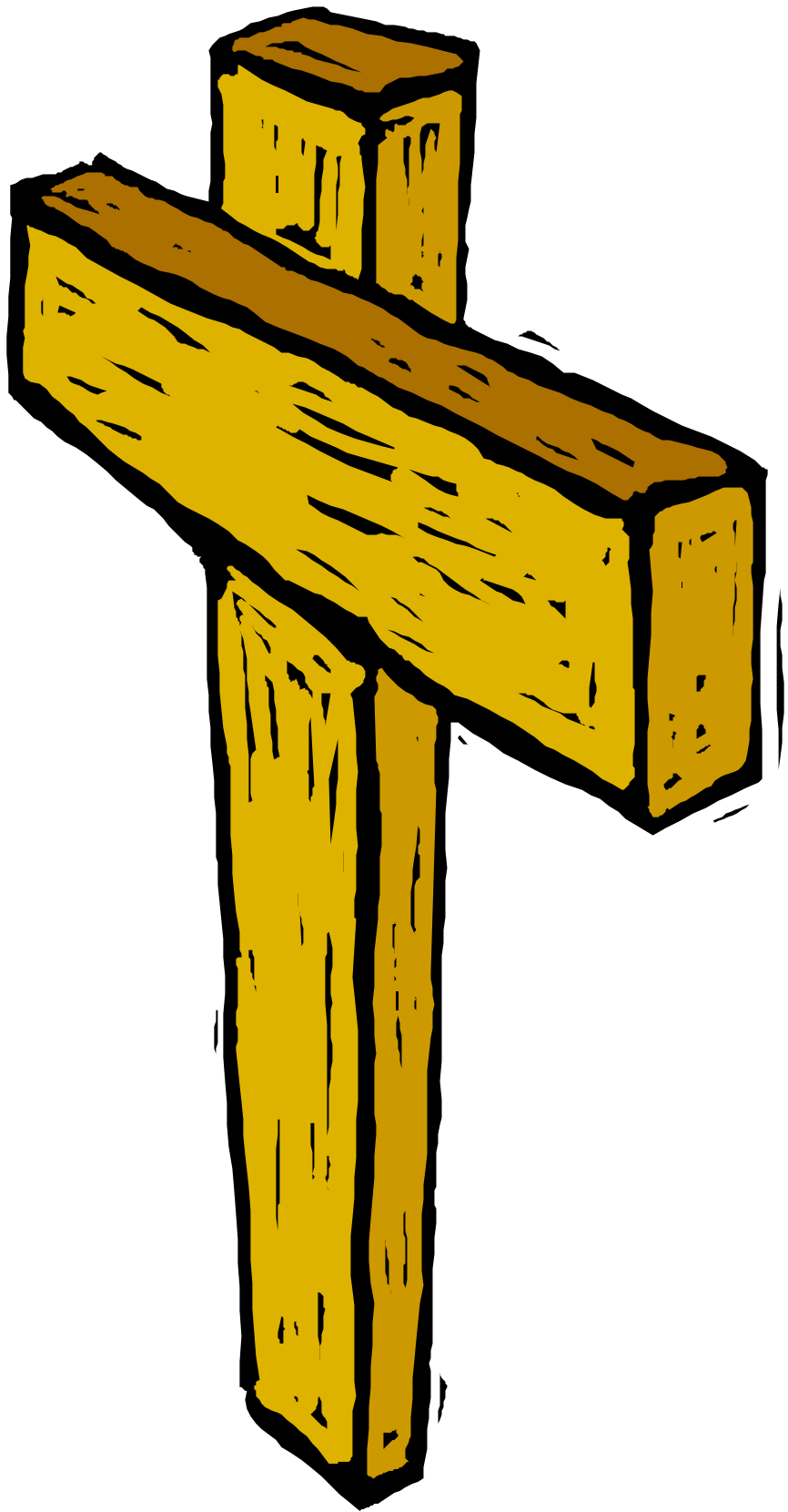
As we look at the names of the PCC—there's a lot of years of service, wise heads and experience contained therein. All of the members of the PCC have an awesome roll to fulfil. They have to be in tune with our corps. In tune with the people of our corps. In tune with the Holy Spirit and His guidance for our corps. Pray for them. Pray with them. Encourage them. They are the eldership of our church. They are responsible for us all and accountable to us all. Let's pray that God will be in the centre of their deliberations at all times and that they realise safe choices are not always right choices.

In John Masefield's drama *The Trial of Jesus*, there is a striking passage in which the Roman centurion in command of the soldiers of the cross comes back to Pilate to hand in his report of the day's work.

After the report is given, Pilate's wife beckons to the centurion and begs him to tell how the prisoner died. When the story had been told, she suddenly asks, "Do you think He is dead?" "No, lady" answers the centurion, "I don't." "Then where is He?" to which the Roman replies, "Let loose in the world, lady, where...no one can stop His truth."

The gospel of the resurrection is:

- an indisputable fact
- an indispensable faith and
- an irresistible force





A WORD FROM THE SONGSTER LEADER....

This is the article you have been waiting for the follow up to my previous and only one.

I do find it difficult putting down in writing my feelings, but since my previous letter many good things have taken place.

I believe we as a corps have a lot to offer, to each other, and to the people we come in contact with in many different ways. In my role as Songster Leader I believe our ministry from week to week is very important and I strive to meet these demands in a positive way. Communication with meeting leaders prior to the weekends helps in selecting suitable songs, and I also am ready if possible to change plans if so required. The commitment of the members of the brigade is generally very high and this certainly helps to keep a good change of repertoire. I am ready to listen to comments regarding the songs we use, with anyone.

What a great time we have had recently seeing our youngsters enrolled as senior soldiers, and also their willingness to be involved in the musical sections and other aspects of corps work. We need to continue to pray and encourage them. But the good news is that others are very close to making the move to senior soldiership. These *are* exiting times.

I ask you for your prayers for the visit of the songsters to Cradley Heath, (April 24th/25th) pray that God will prepare us to take the message that they need, and that we ourselves will be strengthened in our own faith.

Personally I am privileged to be involved in other work within our corps...Alpha on Monday evenings, Dinner club on Wednesdays, the musical Burning Questions, and a continued involvement with the Band. It's a very busy life as a Salvationist but also rewarding when you see new people entering our hall though these activities. We as a corps need to make our newcomers welcome and comfortable, before they are made uncomfortable when God speaks to them— and there is no doubt that he will. (It's true you know that he speaks to all of us, the trouble is do we listen?).

Well it's great that our corps is growing in numbers, Congratulations to our COs on the birth of Alice and thanks for helping out in this way. Numbers are important but not everything, we must all look to be growing in our own experience every day.

Margaret and I had the privilege of looking after Capt Julia's Dad and Mum for a few days, two lovely people, it was great to listen to some of there experiences in the time they were active officers (a number of years were spent in this division). Unfortunately Albert had a fall on the way home and he is now quite poorly in hospital, I'm sure you will all remember him and Rose and all members of the family in your prayers. In closing I ask that you with me continue to do all we can to encourage each other and pray that God will bless us as we strive to reach our goal of more than a hundred people worshipping with us each week.

God Bless

John

BURNING QUESTIONS



The Salvation Army Risca and Bethany Baptist Church are joining together to present the musical **Burning Questions**. The musical has been written in a non-threatening and entertaining way to present the gospel to those who are as yet unconvinced. It uses sketches and songs that are easy to learn and can be performed by anyone with the right amount of enthusiasm!

The musical might also be a way for you to explore your understanding of the Christian faith and learn more about the teachings of Jesus in an easygoing atmosphere. This project is designed to make the Christian faith approachable and user friendly, and to demonstrate that being a Christian is not only a serious matter, but also lots of fun.

The churches aim to present the first performance of the musical on Friday 14th May 2004.

We will also need help in preparing props, costumes and marketing the musical. If you feel that you can help or are just plain curious, why not come along to one of the rehearsals held at The Salvation Army hall?

WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

Sunday:	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School Youth Group Re:Generation
	4-45pm:	Open Air
	5pm	Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
Monday:	4pm—5pm:	CAMEO Club
	7-30pm—9-45pm:	<i>Alpha Course</i> or discipling course
Tuesday:	10am – 11-30am:	Risca Rascals (Parent and Toddler group)
	7-45pm	Songsters
Wednesday:	12-15pm-1-30pm:	Dinner Club
	5pm:	Rainbows
	6pm:	Brownies
	6-30pm:	Guides
Thursday:	7-30pm	Band Rehearsal

And Finally...

Longfellow could take a worthless piece of paper, write a poem upon it and make it worth £3,000.

That is genius!

Rockefeller can sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth millions—that is capital!

A mechanic can take material worth £5 and make an article worth £100—that is skill.

An artist can take a cheap piece of canvas, paint a picture on it and make it worth millions—that is art.

God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His spirit in it and make it a blessing to humanity. That is salvation!

Smiles never go up in price or down in value!