

THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS

Revelations!

Issue: July 2003

Dates for your diary...

Saturday 12 July

Cwmfelinfach Park—2-30pm

Come and listen to the band, songsters and timbrels!

Friday 18/Sat 19 July 2003

Guides Sleepover Fundraiser

Sunday 20 July

'Songs in the Park' - 3-15pm

Tredegar House and Gardens, Newport

Come and listen to the band, songsters and timbrels!

Monday 8 September

Corps Council

Saturday 13 September

Annual Appeal commences

Saturday/Sunday 13/14 September

Corps Anniversary

Led by Major Christine Bailey, THQ

Saturday evening to be a praise and

celebration event

Friday 3 October—7-30pm

PCC meeting at the hall

Saturday/Sunday 4/5 October

Harvest Celebrations

Saturday 11 October

KIDS ALIVE! Day

Fri/Sat/Sun 17/18/19 October

CO's at Pentre specialling

24/25/26 October

Welcome Pack CD Recording

Wednesday 29 October—6pm

Light Party for all YP and BP Sections

Friday 31 October—7-30pm

Planned Giving Meeting

Saturday 1 November

Fireworks Party

Friday 7 November

Corps Council—may be rescheduled

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Parade—am

Volunteer Sunday Celebration—6pm

Saturday/Sunday 15/16 November

Cradley Heath Songsters

Saturday/Sunday 22/23 November

Youth Councils

Friday/Saturday 28/29 November

BP Gang Show

Saturday 6 December—7-15pm

Civic Community Carol Service

Sunday 14 December—4pm

YP Carol Service

Thursday 18 December

Christmas food parcel distribution

Sunday 21 December—6pm

Corps Carol Service

Thursday 25 December

Christmas Morning Service

Sunday 11 January 2004

Commitment Sunday

Saturday/Sunday 24/25 January 2004

YP Anniversary

Led by Captains Doug and Michelle Hayter

Friday 5 March 2004

World Day of Prayer

Friday/Saturday 12/13 March 2004

Welsh Congress

Sunday/Monday 21/22 March 2004

Mothers Day and Home and Family

Weekend

Saturday/Sunday 17/18 April 2004

Band Weekend

Fri/Sat/Sun 14/15/16 May 2004

'Burning Questions' Musical

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 June 2004

YP Anniversary

Led by Captains Nigel and Linda Govier

Saturday 18 September 2004

Annual Appeal commences

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Risca Salvation Army - a family church for everyone!

Captains Comment...



I HAVE recently been following the documentary on Prince William's coming of age. It has looked back over the events of his life and also the training and education he needs to become a future King. It has been very interesting and you soon realise that although he enjoys immense privileges in his life, he does not have the one thing we probably all take for granted—freedom. No doubt he may want to sing one of Queen's hit songs 'I want to break free'!

Maybe at times we all feel we want to sometimes sing that song, to break free from the kids, free from responsibility, free from our work life, free from our marriage, free from illness or depression, free from bills and financial burden, free from studies etc etc. Free from all the pressures that get thrown at us in our lives. We want to escape and break free even if it's only for a while.

Jesus understood this too. He had enormous pressures to deal with and often he would 'break free' from the crowds and go to a quiet, secluded place to be alone or with his disciples, to be quiet and to stop and pray with his Father. Jesus definitely wanted to break free just before his arrest and crucifixion. In the garden of Gethsemane he prayed to his Father: '...My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?...' Sounds a bit like the recent *I'm a Celebrity—get me out of here!* However Jesus didn't get out of there because he did his Father's will and God gave him the strength to endure it.

We can all take heart from this. When the going gets tough, we have a God who will listen and understand, he will guide us in the right direction if we trust him to do that.

Next time you want to 'break free' - remember Jesus and what he did.

God bless you all.
Captain Julia Jepson



AT a recent Corps Council it was suggested that '...other people should be asked intermittently to produce articles for the newsletter...' If you have anything that could be included in the corps newsletter, please let me know. At this point in time the newsletter comes to you with the help of the following people and I say thanks to them all:

- Captains Robert and Julia Jeps on *for their Captains Comment, Youth and Adult and Community articles*
- Bandmaster Ian Browning *for his Bandstand and other 'bits'*
- Corps Treasurer Margaret Gregory *for financial 'bits' and 'And Finally...'*
- Iestyn Davies *for his Impolite Conversation and Deliberate Discussion*
- Mal Williams *for the series on Prayer*
- YPSM Sara Browning *for her articles which cover the whole of the YP Corps. This will now all be placed under Kids Corner*
- Kim Davies *for Partners in Prayer*

Claire Durrant

**Bandstand...
BM Ian
Browning**



I HAVE recently been asked to write a review of the band's hopes and achievements for a corps review evening. Let me share some of these thoughts with you:

UNDER our Mission Statement '*...The mission of the band is to bring the love of God to all people everywhere...*' the band has engaged in a very busy twelve months. Specialising engagements have been fulfilled in Cwmfelinfach, Cannock, Abertillery, Waunfawr Park, Newbridge Leisure Centre, Llanelli, St Mark's Church, Cardiff and Maesteg.

While we find pleasure in 'getting out there and spreading the gospel' we are a corps band first and foremost. As such, we regularly take part in corps worship, meeting leadership and whatever else is required to be an effective and efficient tool for corps evangelism. The band's enthusiasm for praising God through the medium of music is undoubted. And our commitment to God and the Army is unquestionable. Risca Band is a young, middle of the road Army band that has a real passion and enthusiasm for what we can achieve, and God is blessing us both spiritually and numerically.

The band has seen visiting leaders to Thursday rehearsal, who have brought varied styles of musical leadership together with an opportunity to experience the extended fellowship that is Army Brass Banding. These have included Territorial Music Director/Bandmaster of International Staff Band Steve Cobb; Major Peter Ayling, IHQ; Ralph Pearce, USA Western Territory and Carl Saunders, Cardiff Canton.

The band is featured on the corps website and regularly appears in the corps newsletter and *Salvationist* articles.

Under my leadership, the band has numerous goals for the coming year(s) and I am in the process of compiling a five-year plan to keep goals in focus and our direction 'on track'. Part of this plan includes:

- To continue to '*...be supportive to our total corps programme, often seeking to be involved in other aspects of its ministry. We will co-operate with our corps leaders to maintain a totally integrated corps programme...*' (*Regulations and Guidelines for Musicians*)
- To have Band local positions occupied. These positions being:
Deputy Bandmaster
Band Sergeant
Band Secretary
Assistant Band Secretary
Band Librarian
- To hold regular band locals meetings (once the above positions are filled)
- To be a fundamental part of an efficient and effective corps evangelism outreach programme
- To carry out further specialising engagements within the territory, division and corps locality
- To develop a Band rehearsal devotional discipleship track
- To reach out and evangelise the gospel to the secular brass band fraternity
- To develop the use of our band in worship
- To develop musical excellence

I believe that the above can be achieved. However it can only be achieved if you continue to pray for us. Your prayers, support and encouragement are so vital and necessary. Please continue to support your band. If you wish to come along and participate in a Thursday evening rehearsal you are more than welcome. If you wish to just come and listen—you are more than welcome. If you have a specific piece of music you would like the band to play—let me know and arrangements can be made.

Many of the pieces the band have been rehearsing lately have included reference to light - The Light of the World, I'll be a light and Time to Shine. It is my prayer that our corps will be seen as a light in the darkness. I want people to look at us and think '*...yes, I want that deep inner peace in my life...*'

According to Rick Warren, there are two basic reasons people don't know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour: (1) they have never met a Christian; and (2) they have met a Christian. Christian influence is no small matter. Let's shine our lights brightly. Let's shine our lights blindingly! People are seeking the truth, let us continue to be a people who not only **tell** them about Jesus, but let us continue to be a church that **shows** them Jesus.

As God's people we are the best. Jesus knew people's imperfections when He said, that we are the light of the world.

THE CORPS COUNCIL

THE members of the Risca Corps Council are as follows and they adhere to the Orders and Regulations governing Corps Council, 1986 as outlined:

- 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
- YPSM Sara Browning
- S/C Ldr David Gregory
- Guider Pam Parnell
- Quartermaster Steve Jenkins
- Songster Claire Durrant
- JSS Val Barclay
- Songster Mal Williams

Establishment

The purpose of a corps council is to advise and assist the commanding officer on matters concerning the progress and well-being of his command, including:

- Evangelical outreach and soul saving endeavours
- Spiritual life and fellowship of the corps
- Corps growth
- Corps programme: regular and special events
- Work among young people
- Community service undertaken by the corps
- Budgeting
- Fundraising, internal and external
- Property matters
- Sharing of information with corps and community

Note: The council is an 'advisory' and not a 'policy making' body. Voting as such is not permitted.

Composition

The corps council is composed of the corps officer(s), local officers, soldiers and, if desired, some Army friends of good standing.

- (a) Membership shall include:
 - The Divisional Commander (ex officio)
 - The corps officer(s) (ex officio)
 - The senior census board local officers (ex officio)
 - Not more than seven other members, including young people
- (b) A corps council should have at least five members
- (c) The membership should include both men and women
- (d) Sub-groups may be set up to deal with specific subjects as required

Appointment

The CO recommends, for the approval of the DC, all persons proposed for appointment to the corps council. Each recommendation must be endorsed by two members of the ex officio corps council.

Term

Appointment to the corps council shall be for a year at a time, with reappointment should the CO so desire and the member be willing.

Chairman

The CO is chairman of the corps council, without whom no meeting may take place. However, a) if a meeting of the corps council has not been held for at least three quarters of any year, the DC will call a meeting and he or his representative will preside and b) if a corps is without a CO, the DC will call a meeting and he or his representative will preside.

Secretary

The corps council shall annually select one of its members to act as secretary.

Agenda

The secretary, in consultation with the chairman, prepares an agenda of items submitted by members of the council. The DC may require other business relating to the work of the council to be added to the agenda, which should then be sent to each member of the council at least one week in advance of the meeting.

Minutes

A careful account of all recommendations must be properly recorded in the corps council minutes, with copies sent immediately to the DC and all council members. A digest of the proceedings should be shared wisely with the soldiery. The minute book shall be available for inspection by the DC at any time.

Matters Arising

Matters arising should be carefully followed through with appropriate action taken and findings presented at the next council meeting.

Quorum

A quorum should be one third of the council's total membership, but never fewer than four.

Frequency of meeting

The corps council must meet at least once a quarter; more frequently if required by territorial policy.

Council to Continue

No corps council may be discontinued without the approval of the DC.

IMPOLITE CONVERSATION

...*Bandsman Iestyn Davies*

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

IN 1999 according to the then Welsh Office, 38% of teenagers had experimented with Cannabis. Around 14% had experimented with Amphetamine and one would have been tempted to take comfort in the fact that only slightly more than 1% had experimented with Heroin. That is of course until you realise that 1% accounts for around 15 to 20 pupils in the average comprehensive school. It was in 1999 that I first began to work in the area of drug policy and the wider arena of social exclusion. In many ways those figures reflected the received understanding prevalent at that time and still present that there were "hard drugs" – those substances deemed highly addictive but thankfully only used by a small number of people and "soft drugs" – a category of drugs but in particular Cannabis that presented no real cause for concern except to the more morally and socially conservative of social commentators and opinion formers.

The current classification of substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 goes some way to support such a theory. Working with politicians, opinion formers and often parents and young people I have tried to avoid falling into the trap of arguing for or against particular substance based upon what is in actual fact a fairly meaningless dichotomy. The Hard/Soft distinction for instance clearly cannot cope with the nation's drug of choice - alcohol, nor can it cope with the fact that drug policy cannot and has never been a reflection on relative harm. The link between crime, drugs, poor education and social deprivation is so clear as to have become a truism and leads even the most careful commentator to fall into the trap of a glaring stereotype. The legacy of post-industrialism coupled with geographical isolation has led to the creation of micro-communities where chronic poly-drug use (the use of multiple categories and types of drugs), is an accepted but unwelcome fact of life. The effect of post-industrialism is not limited to the inner cities and is as commonplace in seaside towns and rural communities as in the valleys. Stereotype or not, the fact remains, drug use, in particular the use of heroin cannot be divorced from the reality of post-industrialism and profound social changes in the nature of our communities. In the same way the Gin palaces of Darkest England were a feature of Victorian Britain and the changes from an agricultural society to full blown Industrialism. And just as William Booth recognised the problems of his society today there is a far more subtle challenge facing us as we have to come to terms with the fact drug use amongst an increasing number of people is actually a life-style choice - something akin to choosing to shop in H&M rather than M&S.

So there are two clear priorities our society. First to tackle heroin and poly drug use within socially disadvantaged communities as part of rebuilding a sense of purpose for our post-industrial, post-modern Wales. We must as a society answer the question "what do you do, if you live 20 miles from the nearest call-centre and dropped out of education at 14?." And then answer a second question, which is simply, "Why do an increasing number of young people choose a drug induced euphoric sense of belonging based on ecstasy use while many more binge drink not just at weekends but regularly during the week?"

Drugs have always and probably will always be abused within society. Traditionally we have attempted to ameliorate the harm this has caused by a mix of coercion and social seduction. By strokes we have been appealing to people's better natures whilst using the law and economic necessity to condition behaviour. What we cannot afford to do is pay lip service to this big question and fail to offer hope to the vulnerable whilst missing the point that the real reason why most people "do drugs" is that in the short-term at least they make us feel just that little bit better. The question is and will remain why do we feel this way in the beginning?

Historically The Salvation Army has faced the problem of drug use. Traditionally we have put a strong emphasis on tackling alcohol problems and now at our social services centres we are developing innovative programmes that mix the very latest knowledge of addictive behaviour with our own experience that people need more than just cold turkey. They need love and increasingly a sense of belonging in a world that seems to have left them lonely and abused. The fact that we as a congregation may feel totally out of our depth if we had to face such problems within our corps shouldn't cause us to feel guilty. We, as a church, may not provide a direct service to drug users and alcoholics but we facilitate that work done by others. We all have specific callings and vocations and whether or not we are involved "hands on" we can pray and we can ensure that when we speak to our MP and AM, that they know that we are concerned about the problem and expect government to take this particular problem seriously. As a movement our position on alcohol has often been presented as a consequence of this aspect of our collective ministry.

There is a fundamental question that does bother me and I think should be asked very seriously at this stage in the development and history of the Salvation Army. That question is this "Does our stance on alcohol actually drive people away from fellowship and subsequently away from the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and His salvation?" If we were to review the history of the Army and also of William Booth, we would find that it was Catherine Booth who actually led the Army down the road of total abstinence. It was Catherine who led the Army away from communion and baptism and in many ways this direction was due to her personal conviction more so than her husband's and other leaders. Our stance on tobacco use, particularly amongst local officers (including bandsmen and songsters) only changed as far back as the sixties. As far as I am aware there is only one church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church (and the Mormons if you consider them a church in our sense of the word) other than us that requires total abstinence from all members. (In fact this position itself is not quite true since the Army refers to Adherents who may or may not choose to abstain from alcohol as members.) Individuals within other Churches, particularly the traditional nonconformist denominations still hold on to temperance values but they do not form part of their membership procedures. Many have and indeed are asking should this position remain for the Salvationst. On the one hand the logic and theological reasons to take a stance against alcohol and drug use is clear. We are ambassadors of Jesus, set apart and subject to a higher calling. What is the point of professing faith if our actions and standards do not differ from other people? On the other of course there are equally good objections stating that we do not require our members to eat healthily or drive more safely always respecting the speed limit or at least we do not make such behaviour a condition of membership. In all these discussions and others besides the very least we need to do is to ensure all our members but in particular the younger members of our church are at least aware of the reasons why or why not we take a particular stance. We cannot abdicate our responsibility saying that we don't do it simply because we are Salvationists.

Perhaps we can begin to base our understanding of alcohol, drug use and indeed other aspects of our high calling not on the basis of "we cannot ..." but simply upon "we can...". There is something to be said for such a high calling but only when it is something we choose to do rather than a list of things we are told not to do.



KIDS CORNER

AT a recent Corps Council it was mentioned that:

- More children's news is needed
- A cartoon strip may be in each issue
- A chance for jokes and games eg word searches etc
- Competitions were suggested eg cut out silhouettes of people we know or part of a person's face shown and guess who it is

If this is what you want to see in Kids Corner

—Please see Sara Browning!

WHILE I am writing this my thoughts return to our recent YP Anniversary. A lot of preparation went into this weekend to make it the special occasion it was.

Lieutenant Ian Walford (DYP, Southern Division) and his wife Margo led the weekend. Ian and Margo both soldier at Southampton Shirley Corps in the Southern Division and have now been accepted for Salvation Army officership training. They enter the William Booth Memorial Training College in September 2003. I know, that with me, you will pray God's blessing for them in their future ministry together.

It is nearly time for the six weeks of school holidays to be upon parents. This can be a trying time. A tiring time. In Ephesians 6:1 we read '...children do what your parents tell you. This is only right...honour your father and mother... fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master...'

It is my prayer that parents and children will enjoy their time together. When times get rough here are a few tips:

- Plan ahead. Make a week to week diary of all the activities you will be hoping to do
- Communicate. Everyone needs to know what's going on
- Adaptability. Be willing to change things if something unexpected turns up
- Keep calm. Anger never solves anything!

Sara Browning

Children's Summer Holiday Club



Date: Monday 4 August 2003
(for five mornings)

Time: 10am—12-30pm

Venue: The Salvation Army,
Commercial Street, Pontymister

Cost: £5 per week (£1-20 per day)

Age: 6—11 year olds

On **Friday 8 August at 6-30pm** there will be an open evening so the weeks events can be seen!

For further details and application form contact:

01633 613794/601091

Email: enquiries@riscasalvationarmy.org.uk

NOTE: Monday 14 July 2003—7-30pm—Planning Meeting at the hall for those involved with Club!

YOU pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus says: ‘...when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you...’

Your prayers are validated by Jesus Christ and are interpreted to God the Father by the Holy Spirit. But since God is one God, manifested in three persons, it is perfectly acceptable to pray to Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

There is no jealousy between the three persons of the Trinity. But the scriptural pattern which Jesus taught addressed the Father.

***TO WHOM DO
YOU PRAY?***

It is meaningful and encouraging to realise that as you are praying both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are interceding. Paul tells us in Romans 8: 34 ‘... Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand side of the Father, and is also interceding for us.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will...’

There is a great deal to pray for as we read this passage, and there is no time like the present to start!

A Special Kind of Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that the twit who cut us up in traffic is a single mother who worked 9 hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moment with her children.

O God, help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can’t make change correctly is a worried 19 year old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student bans for next semester.

Lord, remind us that the scary looking fella, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slowly though the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress is savouring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she received last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. We need to open our hearts not just to those who are close to us but to all humanity. Led us not judge. Let us be quick to forgive, to show patience, empathy and love.

Amen

Adult & Community...Captain Julia

OVER the past month we have been revisiting membership information classes. Some very interesting discussions have taken place and on the whole everyone has enjoyed participating in discussion.

Natalie, Jordan and Stuart are yet to search through the doctrines and over the next few weeks, I'm sure that they will soon get to grips with them. Pray for Alan as he helps out in the group.

Plans are now formulated for the activity holiday in August. So far 13 of us are booked in at the Christian Mountain Centre in Llanbedr. Paul and Sarah Tucker will be with us to support. Jordan has taken the initiative to invite a friend, so John will also be joining us. This is very encouraging. We would welcome any donations for this holiday as we need to cover our diesel costs. If you can help, please see me.

On to a different note. Many of our youth members have had the task of sitting exams recently. Results will appear in August. Please pray for Dean, Daniel, Nathan and Caz as they await results.

Alan and Jen will have completed their first year at university and we hope that they will get through to their second year.

We must mention Jo Barclay who completes her years at Carmarthen. She has recently presented her artwork at a college exhibition. Her degree should, hopefully, be forthcoming. Nicola Barry should be home too after her stay at Plymouth University. We hope she has a brilliant summer.

Our youth is a credit to us. They are very committed and helpful to our corps. Please, if you get time, encourage them through a friendly chat or card. Our group on a Sunday is Natalie, Caz, Jen, Alan, Matt, Daniel, Stuart, Dean and Jordan.

Some of our group will be helping out at the Holiday Club this year, for which I am grateful. These are Dean, Daniel, Caz, Alan and Jen. It's great to know that our youth are willing to be involved in helping our community.

Please continue to pray for our youth as we will over the next year see how we can develop and move forward as an integral group in the corps.

THE Home League and Over Sixties have now successfully joined forces and meet together every Monday at 4pm. About 20-25 attend including our two gentlemen Keith and Les who cope very well with being surrounded by 20 plus women!! We try to have a guest speaker every month as well as interesting weekly meetings. Last week it was all about knitting. Our platform is used for many things, but has it ever been used for a fashion parade? Well it was last week as our ladies paraded their knitted garments complete with spins and twirls, the super models had no chance!!! So we do have quite a bit of fun.

This year for our summer trip we are heading for Cheltenham on Tuesday 29th July. Members of the Luncheon Club are joining us. There are still quite a few spare places so if you would like to come along please see me and I will give you the details.

In our worship time, we were reminded that like a knitting pattern, Jesus is our pattern for living that we can model ourselves on. That He continues to create and recreate our lives, shaping and working out his plan from day to day. Mother Teresa said 'do something beautiful for Christ'. If we keep to the pattern, He will make something beautiful of our lives.

And lastly, just to spice up this piece of reading, here are some extracts from other Salvation Army newsletters:

The Captain will preach his farewell message, after which the songsters will sing 'Praise the Lord'.

Slimming World will meet at 5.30 pm and 7 pm at the Salvation Army hall on Tuesday. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

If these gave you a bit of a laugh, watch out for some more in the next *Revelations*.

God bless you all.

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

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Partners In Prayer



Prodigals

Loving Father, may Your Church be a true refuge for prodigals. Give us grace to reach out to those who feel they have failed and are lost. Help us to restore them, sharing the good news of salvation and new life through Jesus. Amen. *

Local Churches

Loving Father, we ask you to strengthen and guide our church and local churches facing important decisions and changes, some of which may be testing and painful. Pray for those in leadership to be given wisdom and sensitivity about the way ahead. Amen. *

Emerging Generations

Father, as fewer children attend church and many young people are looking elsewhere for meaning and reality, please reveal to the right people radical measures that will effectively enthuse, disciple and nurture children and young people. Amen. *

Bible passage for this issue: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

*Taken from the CARE summer prayer guide – My partner in prayer.
To receive the CARE Prayer Guide either by mail or on email please visit www.care.org.uk*

‘Continue praying and keep alert. And when you pray, always thank God...

Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers. Use your time in the best way you can. When you talk, you should always be kind and wise.’

Colossians 4:2-6 (New Century Version)

A HUGE thank you to all those who responded to CSM Ian Brill’s public appeal for clothes/money for Pakistan the other Sunday. In total £64 was collected and this will be used to purchase further baby clothes for Pakistan.

God bless you all.
Phyllis Browning

Monday 25 August 2003

At 12 Noon we celebrate the wedding of Brin and Julie!

Monday 22nd September 2003

Alpha Supper 7.30pm at the Hall which will commence the 3rd Alpha Course this will run every Monday for 10 weeks. Please come along to the Supper and bring a friend with you. Please ask CS Pam Brill or Alan Gregory if you require information about the course. It is really a series of information seminars on the Christian faith with a meal thrown in and a chance to make some good friends.

Deliberate Discussion!

**Muddles or Muggles?
Is the ongoing Harry
Potter craze harmless
fun or dangerous
superstition?**

**As Prince William
is 21 what does
the future hold for the heir
to the throne and
Defender of the Faith?**



FINANCES ... CT Margaret Gregory

Pledged Giving this quarter:

£6104-97 Pledged
£117 Unpledged
£761-13 Offering

This is an average of £469-61 weekly giving. The Pledged Giving should be £506 so giving is down. There are so many people who feel they needn't give to the Lord which is very sad because the Lord has given to us all. This week one of our club members died. The family donated £40 to the corps. Another £100 was donated as profit from the refreshments.

Dates:

Monday 14 July 2003—Planned Giving Meeting Cancelled
3—21 June 2004—New Planned Giving Programme

Webb Ivory:

We are looking for someone to do Webb Ivory this year. If you would like to offer your services please see me as soon as possible. Much needed funds for the corps can be raised through Webb Ivory—could you do it?

*Risca Corps Building
Fund—£1462.00*

RISCA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SPORTS DAY 2003

ON a hot and sunny Saturday afternoon during June at Risca Leisure Centre, a team representing Risca Salvation Army participated in the above annual event. Teams from Moriah, Agape, Trinity and Bethany Baptist all fancied their chances against the small, but well trained team of athletes from our corps. Trinity Church, Pontywaun, were the reigning champions and were again the favourites for the trophy. The corps team comprised of Daniel Jenkins (Captain), Matthew Jenkins, Ieuan Davies, Leah Browning, Hannah Jenkins, Gethin Davies, Ruth Jenkins and Ian Browning.

The first event saw participants representing four different age groups running the 100 metres sprint. You will be pleased to learn that our Team Captain Daniel Jenkins sprinted to a fine second place in the 16+ age group. In the 4-8 years age group, Ieuan Davies came in second with his brother, Gethin, achieving a well earned fifth place. The girls also did well. They showed everyone the way with a wonderful first place in the Egg and Spoon relay for the under 11's. The tactics shown by Leah, Hannah and Ruth astounded the opposition who had no chance!

Throughout the event the corps team gave the opposition some real pressure and never once held back from 100% commitment. The oldest member of the corps, oooooops I mean team, Bandmaster Ian Browning even continued to the bitter end after suffering an extremely painful muscle strain during the very first sprint event. Ian finished a credible fourth place in the welly throwing competition, despite some experienced opposition. Daniel and Matthew gave a marvellous joint effort in the three legged races, showing the other competitors how to run this place properly.

Over all, the team finished an amazing fourth place, gaining 138 points!

RISCA CORPS RETREAT 2004

www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk

E-worship? Whatever next!

AT the recent Corps Annual Review evening, the corps retreat featured quite heavily.

Your suggestions for the retreat included:

- Programme for the youth
- Programme for the YP
- Creche facilities
- Worship group to feature but not to be 'in house'
- Good Spiritual teaching
- Quality worship experience
- Jammin Session
- Traditional Army Worship
- Prayer/Devotional times
- Fellowship times

A three month period of reflection regarding the retreat was called for where people could approach Corps Council members to air their thoughts and suggestions.

Therefore, if you have any comments, suggestions or thoughts regarding the Retreat please see a member of the Corps Council before the meeting on Friday 7 November 2003.

As you spend time reflecting what you want from the Retreat here are the initial decisions from the Corps Council:

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?

Jani and Clive Ruberey

Some people believe that, on the Internet, you can get everything that you need to survive. Well, I'm a firm believer in the fact that everyone needs Jesus Christ and so I would say that the church should provide something for these people too.

In the corps review meeting, Captain highlighted the fact that our church here in Risca has a website. The address of the site is <http://www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk>. "Well, that's nothing new" I hear you say ... and you're right! In the April 2002 newsletter there was an article about the website. In that, I answered some questions about our site (which was then about one month old).

However things have changed since April 2002. Indeed, in the last few weeks, the corps council has met to review the website. Before the website was created, there wasn't an opportunity for the corps council to discuss what was required, so this was an extremely important occasion.

All websites perform one basic function – they give everyone in the world the opportunity to know what you are, what you do and why you do it. And the corps council believe that our site is a brilliant way for us to "sell ourselves".

Now the corps council isn't suggesting that Claire puts me up for auction - she'd probably have to pay to have me taken away! Rather that, if we make our website somewhere that people want to visit, then we will find that people want to visit our church too.

I've been issued with a challenge – but it isn't just to reflect our church's values on a website. Each of us has gifts, which we should use to win people for Christ – I guess mine are "web-based". I pray that we will all use our gifts wisely and that God will bless our efforts.

And, again, the address of our site is <http://www.riscasalvationarmy.org.uk>.

E-worship? I hope so!

(Deryk Durrant)



SO...WHAT DID THESE PEOPLE THINK OF ROOTS 2003?

Jonathan Hayes:

'...Roots was 'AWESOME'!!! From driving around Southport with the marches - 'Land of Song' and 'Emblem of the Army' playing full blast on the CD player and getting a parking ticket within 10 minutes of arriving, to taking a wrong turn on the way home and ending up in Gloucester! *Shocking* - well what can I say that the name doesn't already imply! All I'll say on the matter is that you have to be a certain type of person to enjoy it! On the Sunday Morning however, me and my good friend Andrew Sage (Cardiff Canton) went to the floral hall (the adult stuff) and it was quite an amazing sight walking into the hall near the end of the meeting and seeing everyone in the room stood up with their hands in the air singing their hearts out! On a more personal note, I had nothing to do with Roger Batt's tent being moved!!!

Julia Jepson:

'...I never have to ask the question 'will I enjoy Roots' - I know I always will. It's the spiritual oasis that I look forward to every year. There are times when we can get spiritually dry and this is where I can be refreshed and renewed with spiritual food and water. The worship and speakers are of an excellent standard. I am always challenged in my faith. It is, for me, the most significant event in the Army calendar! ...'

Natalie Browning :

'...*Shocking* was absolutely shocking apart from when Sandra Ryan was speaking and *The Band With No Name* were playing. I met lots of friends. On the last day I went to the Big Top to listen to Graham Kendrick—he was fabulous!...'

How about attending Roots 2004?

The dates are confirmed as 30 April—3 May 2004, Southport

Under the heading of Global Jesus the following guests have already been booked:

- **Bart Campolo**
- **Jeff Lucas**
- **Jim Wallis**

COMMISSIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS and prayers to the following who have recently been commissioned:

Songster Librarian Phyllis Browning

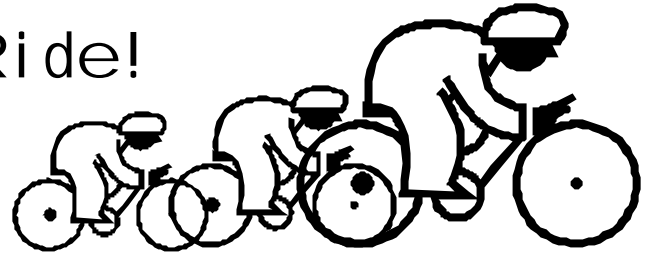
(taking over from Auntie Joyce who did the job for more than 10 years!)

YPSM Sara Browning

Junior Soldier Sergeant Val Barclay

Bandsman and Songster Matthew Jenkins

Sponsored Bike Ride!



To raise much needed funds for the YP Band, *Assistant YP Band Leader Andrew Thomas* will be completing a 45 mile sponsored bike ride on Saturday 19 July 2003.

Andrew will be cycling around the Cwmcarn Scenic Drive (nine miles) five times in total. Andrew will commence his ride at 11am from Car Park One and will be returning there—hopefully! The YP corps will be holding a celebratory BBQ from around 3pm. To which you are all invited! Tickets for the BBQ cost £2. See Sara Browning or Philip Hawkins for more details!

Please support him generously!

Annual Review 2003

AT a recent Annual Review, Captain Robert Jepson shared with the corps the following:

- For one full year Risca Corps have been self funding
- Through our personal giving we need to raise a further £40 per week. Can you help?
- From 2002-2003 we have achieved the following purchases:

Subsidised youth group to go to London for Youth Rally	£60
A new notice board	£110
Periodical racks	£200
New OHP Screen	£104
Subsidised purchase of office computer	£1000
Contributed to YP hall curtains	£250
Purchased Alpha publicity material and videos	£200
Purchased first aid box to health and safety standards	£50
- The hall refurbishment cost £93,000. Risca Corps received, in total £59,500 from various charities, sections and boards. From the THQ EM Fund a total of £34,000 was received, giving us a surplus of £500!
- The Strategic Framework for the United Kingdom Territory was disseminated to all present. If you have any comments regarding this document, please contact THQ directly. If you need further copies, please see Captains Robert or Julia Jepson
- Finally, our personal giving can be...
 - either* **TOKEN GIVING**
so small that it costs nothing, means nothing, entails no sacrifice, has no spiritual value, has a negative impact on the giver
 - or* **SACRIFICIAL GIVING**
large and generous enough to please God, has meaning for the giver, brings a sense of fulfilment, has a positive spiritual impact on the giver

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> or discipling course
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
Thursday:	7-30pm	Band Rehearsal

A water-bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. *"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts"*. The bearer said to the pot, *"Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day as we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."*

Moral

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. Remember to appreciate all the different people in your life!

And Finally...

One Wednesday saw Margaret running into the CO's office shouting: '...Quick, Quick Captain, someone's stolen a dinner...' to which the Captain responded: '...Shall I phone the police or the ambulance?...'