

# THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS

## Revelations!

Issue: September 2002

### Dates for your diary...

#### Saturday 7 September 2002 at 12 Noon

Band at Garden Fete at St Theodore's Cwmfelinfach (Centenary Celebrations)

#### Sunday 8 September 2002

Captains Nick and Kerry Coke, DHQ leading our Sunday worship. There will be an After Hours meeting starting at 8pm - the theme will be linked with the Facevalues initiative, it is entitled 'Say Sorry'. Everyone linked to face values is encouraged to hold a seeker sensitive service on this theme. Why not come along and get something out of the evening.

#### Saturday 14 September 2002

12-45pm Drama Workshop

Captain Robert Jepson

2-15pm Dance Workshop

Captain Julia Jepson

4pm Band Rehearsal with Paul Sharman, led by Bandmaster Ian Browning

5-15pm Anniversary Tea

All Welcome! Donation: £2

7-15pm Festival of Praise and

Thanksgiving with special guests:  
IS Bandsman Paul Sharman  
(Cornet)

Major Kelly Pontsler (IHQ)

#### Sunday 15 September 2002

10am Family Worship with  
YP and BP Sections

4-30pm Open Air Concert

Tredegar Park, Risca

6pm Evening Worship

During this weekend we will launch our Building Fund for a new hall which is one of our future objectives.

#### Saturday/ Sunday 12/13 October 2002

Harvest Weekend with Captain Jacqui Pound, London Central DHQ. On the Saturday we will be hosting the Risca Male Voice Choir at Bethany Baptist Church - so please let your friends and family know the date now. This will be the major fund raiser for the corps this year.

#### 5 October 2002 at 7-30pm

Band in concert with Gwent Police Choir, Moriah Baptist Church

#### Saturday 29/Sunday 30 October 2002

Band visit to Cannock

#### 9 November 2002

Remembrance Concert (details to follow)

#### 7 December 2002 at 7pm

Civic Carol Concert @ Risca Primary School

#### 13 & 15 December 2002

Psalty Christmas Sing-a-Long

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## Captains Comment...



IN the last month we received a report from Major Paul Main about our Corps Review Follow-Up that took place sometime ago. I wish to share with you some of the comments that have been made.

### Firstly this:

"It was obvious from the discussion of the Council prior to the review agenda item that they are very focused on mission and growth, maintenance and the status quo are not the norm within the corps, and that is so encouraging to see"

### Secondly this:

"The corps clearly know the direction in which they are heading... The future is exciting, and I look forward to seeing how these objectives develop in the future. I believe that the corps will achieve its goal of a regular worshipping congregation of 120 because of the level of commitment there is within the corps. Sincere thanks to the local leadership for their dedication, and to Captains Robert and Julia Jepson for their visionary leadership. May God bless the ministry and vision for this corps."

These two comments say it all - we as a corps are on the "Right Track". In the next few months we will see our hall undergo a major face lift as part of mission approach to see

## YP...AYPSM Sara Browning

THE YP Trip to **Pembrey Park** was a great success. A lot of prayers were answered as God blessed us with a beautiful day, which left a lot of us with red faces - making it obvious on Sunday who went on the trip and who did not. It was good that family and friends were able to come and join us at the beach, playing in the sand and on it, and looking at the photos Songster Leader took it's 'good to talk'. A big thank you to Philip Hawkins for organising this.

September is always an exciting time for children, as this marks the start of a new school year. New uniform, new books, new bags, new pens, new teachers. This may also mean a new teacher in Sunday School. Here is the class list for your information:

**Sparklers** (3-5 years) - Sarah Tucker and Pam Parnell

**All Stars** ( 5-7 years) - Sara Browning

**Trailblazers** (7-11 years) - Philip Hawkins

**Lazers** (11- 13+ years) - Val Barclay

**Sunday School** will commence again on 1 September from 11-30am—12-45pm. If you know anyone within these age groups who would like to come along, please give them this information and an invitation to attend.

There will be quite a few events happening between now and Christmas. We will try and keep you informed as to the children's participation.

new people come to our corps. We will embark upon the Alpha course. We will hold special events and weekends and take part in praying for our community. All these God honouring activities will be used by Him, but we know have to be on guard.

As the Lord's Spirit is strongly working, Satan's cunning tricks will be fired at us and at individuals. He will try to devour the good that the Lord is doing, not by an outward task but by trying to destroy from within the camp. When Satan has a go, and he will, we need to be like Paul who says these words "*We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair*" 2 Corinthians 4:8

We need in these days to hold on to the fact that "Trusting God can turn a trial into a triumph".

We need to pray for God's Spirit to protect us all and all that Jesus has done and is going to do for our corps.

Let us all be encouraged as our corps is moving ahead, but let us be aware that we will become a target for Satan. We need to recognise him when he comes along and shoot him down with the Spirit's power. When we do this our defences will be even stronger and our effectiveness even greater for the Lord we love and serve.

God Bless you all and Keep Going!  
Let God do the work in you.

**Congratulations** to our Primary Sergeant Sarah Tucker and her husband, Paul, on the arrival of daughter Alana Lilly Vashti!

Moving swiftly along to **Christmas**. This year we are planning to do the musical '*Psalty Christmas Sing-a-long*'. Practises for this will be held on Friday evenings with the performances on 13 & 15 December. This will take a lot of hard work and commitment but will be great fun and fellowship for the children. Letters concerning this will be sent out at a later date.

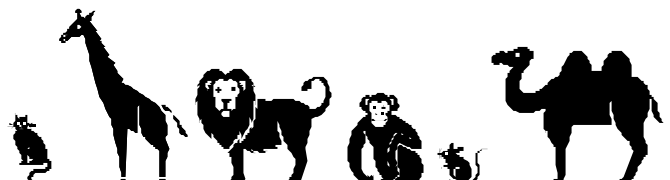
A fun **competition** for the children this month with the prize being a McDonalds meal voucher! The winner will also have their photo and composition printed in the next issue of *Revelations* and possibly *KIDS ALIVE!*

### Competition question:

If I were an animal, I would be a

.....

(What kind of animal would best describe you and why?)



## BM Ian Browning...

‘Summertime,  
an’ the livin’ is easy.’



I'M not sure whether your summer has been as easy and relaxing as the song quoted above expresses, but I do hope you've enjoyed a restful time and used the opportunity to 'recharge your batteries.'

For a lot of people 'Songs in the Park' announced the arrival of the summer season. I received comments from the public which indicated that the event has now become an expected part of their summer season. Over 120 programmes were distributed during that afternoon and I would like to thank everyone who helped make the event a success. Our guests were very happy to be associated with The Salvation Army, let's pray that they will allow God to direct their lives and that they will give time to Him.

We were proud to see **Natalie, Nathan and Jonathan** participating at the *East Midlands School of Music*. You will be pleased to know that both Nathan and Jonathan were the solo cornet players in the School 'A' Band. Well done!

## PRAYER...By Songster Mal Williams

DAILY prayer is your privilege (Luke 18: 1, 11:1-13)

See the example of Jesus (Luke 6: 12, Matthew 14:23, Mark 1: 35)

All of us I am sure have been asked to pray. Some of us are quite confident, others do pray but feel uneasy and our minds go blank as we feel a bit embarrassed. The remainder of us are convinced we cannot pray and say 'so don't ask me to pray please'. You will have read the title of this article, I will try and answer some questions you may have about praying. They come under the following headings:

1. **What is prayer?**
2. **Who can pray?**
3. **Why are we to pray?**
4. **To whom do you pray?**
5. **When should we pray?**
6. **What should be included in prayer?**

### 1. What is prayer?

Someone has said 'Prayer is a dialogue between two people who love each other, God and man.' simply put prayer is communicating with God. Every Christian has a direct line of communication with God, available at all times. But most Christians never lift the 'phone off the hook and often forget the line exists until an emergency arises.

Prayer is much more than words, however. It is an expression of the heart towards God. It is an experience, a relationship, not an activity. As a child of God you are

## Corps Anniversary 2002—14/15 September

Risca Corps is 22 years old during this weekend and this is a reason to celebrate God's faithfulness to us. Our theme for the weekend is 'Thank you—and now to the Future.'

We would like everyone associated with our corps during the past 22 years to attend the Saturday evening Festival of Praise and Thanksgiving. Our guests for the weekend include **International Staff Bandsman Paul Sharman (Cornet)** and **Major Kelly Pontsler (IHQ)**. PLEASE, PLEASE invite everyone you know to come along to the corps tea and the special festival afterwards. I'm sure there are going to be a few surprises during the evening! The itinerary for the weekend is outlined on the front of the newsletter.

I am sure you will be able to think of someone to invite to the tea and festival—Jesus said '...go and make disciples... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

Also on the front of the newsletter are the future events that the band will be involved in. Please remember to pray for us. It really is appreciated.

God bless you!

invited to come boldly before His throne. 'Since we have a great High Priest who has gone through the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God,' Paul writes, *let us...then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* Because the one to whom we are praying is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the creator of Heaven and earth, you come into His presence with reverence. But He is also your loving Heavenly Father who cares for you and delights in having fellowship with you. Therefore you can enter into His presence with a relaxed, joyful heart, knowing God loves you more than anyone else has ever loved you or will ever love you. To me, real prayer is simply communicating with God, inviting Him to talk to you as you talk to Him. There is no more to prayer; but this is basic to true prayer.

I would like us all to pray for the forthcoming Alpha Course commencing in October: that God will bless this endeavour and give those leading the course the ability and strength that they will need to accomplish the goals that are set. I would encourage you all to pray continuously without ceasing for all the sick registered in our prayer journal: that God will make them whole and give them His blessing.

God bless you all.

**How You Can Pray  
With Confidence —  
PART ONE**

# Salvationist

***THE following reports have been included in recent copies of Salvationist regarding our corps here at Risca:***

THE toddlers at the RISCA Parent and Toddler Group thought Christmas had come early when they arrived for play to find a huge bouncy castle. The castle was enjoyed by even the youngest member at nine weeks old. (July 2002)

SALVATIONISTS from RISCA joined with local churches for an Annual Service of the Risca and Crosskeys Council of Churches with guest speaker, The most Rev Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Wales. During the service, in which the band presented 'Nicaea', 'Rousseau' and 'Gaelic Blessing' and songsters sang 'Different Lord For You' and 'If Your Presence', the Archbishop reminded the congregation of the passage of scripture in Ephesians 4 which tells of speaking the truth in love. The Archbishop stressed that as Christians we should not use this passage to justify our judgement of others, but rather that the truth is that we are all called to full humanity as revealed in Jesus Christ. (July 2002)

FOR the fourth year running a local park was brought alive with the sound of hymn and praise/worship songs during a Sunday afternoon 'Songs in the Park'. The event, presented by RISCA band, took the same format as the television programme 'Songs of Praise' where distinguished local guests were invited to introduce their favourite song and explain why it was chosen. Guests included local **MP Don Touhig** and **Mrs Jennifer Touhig**, **Simon Brown**, Manager of the local 'Morrisons' supermarket, **Brian Hancock AC/AM**, **Councillor Lindsay Whittle**, Leader, Caerphilly Borough County Council and **Reverend Soba Sinnathamby**, Chairman, Risca/Crosskeys Council of Churches along with the corps timbrelists, who presented 'Praise'. A total of 350 invitations had been circulated inviting the local community and former bandsmen connected with the corps to the park and over 120 were present. During the afternoon the band played 'Godspell' and 'Nicaea'. (July 2002)

## ***Other news:***



AS part of the Corps forward approach we are seeking to run an Alpha Course at the hall commencing with an Alpha Supper evening at the Hall on **Monday 23 September 2002** at 7.30pm . This supper initiative will take the format of a meal, a short talk, a friendly testimony and information about the Alpha course itself. We would like as many of you to attend the supper as possible but the idea is to use the opportunity to invite someone to the supper who could come along with you. At the supper we will explain how the Alpha Course works and invite those present to start the course the following Monday on 30 September at 7.30pm. If you would like to find out more about this informal Christian Information Course then come along to the supper. It could be the best the decision you make!

## **Annual Appeal 2002**

ON **Monday 16 September 2002** we will start in earnest with the Annual Appeal 2002. This door to door collection will last for two weeks. We need as many helpers as possible to envelop and collect door to door. All monies go towards the Social Services section of the army and is greatly needed. Your help in this task could make a real difference. CT Margaret Gregory will be enlisting as much help as possible, so please say yes when she asks you! Last year we did brilliantly lets see if we can do the same.



## **Christmas 2002**



PLEASE encourage AYPSM Sara Browning and the YP team who are embarking on a Christmas musical—the first rehearsal being Friday 6 September 2002. Pray that some of the Holiday Club children will come along to join in the fun to maintain their link with us.

## **TOPICAL TOPICS...Deputy Bandmaster Iestyn Davies**

### **Thirsty Work?**

IT'S around mid-day and finding a few free minutes to drink my cold coffee I turn to check out today's newspaper. Leaders from around the world are gathering in Johannesburg for the so-called Earth Summit and as I scan the report a quotation from Plaid Cymru MP Simon Thomas catches my eye.



“The availability of clean water is often something we take for granted,” he says “but 1.2 billion people do not have access to it.”

What strikes me, I suppose for the first time really, is not that there are communities where clean water is scarce but rather the immense scale of the problem. 1.2 billion? The population of Wales for instance is somewhere under 3 million people - 1.2 billion?

As I struggle to make sense of such an enormous figure and the human suffering that it represents, I continue to read “The lack of clean water already kills millions of people throughout the world – three children die every minute because of lack of access to clean water and sanitation.” 3 deaths per minute, 180 deaths an hour. How many deaths per day, per week?

What makes the news story a little more uncomfortable for me is that we are currently measuring the amount of water that we as a family use. Coming back from holiday we were greeted by a surprisingly large water bill, which we immediately put down to a fault with the meter. Inspired by the need to prove that the bill was wrong (and more than a little desire to cut down on our water bill if the reading just happened to be correct) we have become obsessed by the question of our water usage. We are skilled in converting from cubic meters to gallons and back again. More than a few neighbours have commented on the fact that at around midnight Kim can be seen staring into a deep black hole in the ground. So I know how much fresh, clean water our family regularly pours down the sink or flushes down the toilet. And the realisation is of course that we regularly throw away cleaner water than most Africans can find to drink.

This “Blue Gold” as environmentalists call it is increasingly becoming scarce and not just in the Davies household! All this on the lonely green and blue planet the surface of which is almost 71% water - 94,380 gallons of which have been consumed or lost in the last sixth months by our family.

The water crisis is of course just one of many problems facing the world's poor. It is also evidence of the gapping divide between rich and poor. It is testament too, to the way in which our society has developed in the last hundred years. I began to think again as I read as indeed I had been during our return from holiday of the way in which Jesus offered water, living-water, to those who were thirsty.

In some ways trying to spiritualise the question faced by the delegates of the Earth Summit is almost like denying the real physical suffering faced by the 1.2 billion people without safe water. But the wakeup call that I received somehow seemed to show me how relevant Jesus' words were to the everyday experience of a people who had first hand experience of drought and poisoned water. To the people of the dry and parched Palestinian land clean, fresh water must have seemed like Gold. The Samaritan woman as she struggled in the heat of the day to carry enough water for her needs can be forgiven for the somewhat sarcastic reply to Jesus when he offered her “a spring of water welling up into eternal life.” But his words weren't worthy of her sarcasm because he too was experienced in the reality of thirst, as he was of hunger and pain.

Perhaps the challenge of the article to me was twofold?

First that our waste is an indictment of a lifestyle that is complacent and ignorant to the greater suffering of the world. Secondly that we who possess the water of life might be prepared to share some of that living-water with our friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Maybe when our spiritual thirst has been truly quenched we might be alive to the reality of that physical thirst that faces the inconceivable 1.2 billion?

# ***10 Ways to Jump-Start Your Spiritual Battery***

*By Major Paul Main  
Divisional Director for Personnel  
South & Mid Wales Division*

Don't let routine rob you of a vibrant walk with  
God!

BOREDOM kills intimacy. In my spiritual life I've found that with a structured and disciplined Christian life comes the potential for routine and boredom. As my daily spiritual disciplines become mere routine, before long it can develop into empty ritual, and empty ritual into boredom. What can I do to keep my relationship with God fresh, vital, and meaningful?

I use boredom as a warning sign that my relationship with God may not be healthy. It may mean I need to do some self-evaluation. Sometimes there is sin that needs to be dealt with. Sometimes, a change in the way I practice the disciplines brings back the joy and vitality to my Christian walk.

Here are some ways that I've noted in my prayer journal that have helped me put passion back into my relationship with God.

## **1. Go on an ego fast.**

For a 24-hour period, don't use the words "I," "me," and "mine." When we focus on our egos we squeeze God out of our lives. EGO = Edging God Out.

Sometimes we are not aware of how selfish we are. Our conversation gives us away. Ask yourself how much of your conversation (both inner and outer) relates to your needs or desires. Whenever you start to talk about yourself or something you want, consciously choose to focus on others, on their needs or desires, not your own.

## **2. Dialogue with God about the Ten Commandments.**

God revealed His character and standards through the Ten Commandments. Pray about each one. Speak to Him just as you would a good friend. If you pray about the commandment "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex. 20:3), you might say something like, "Lord, I know You don't want me to make anything in my life more important than You. But too often, I do. At times, I let things crowd You out because they seem to anaesthetise me when I'm hurt. In reality, I'm always disappointed when I don't give You first place in my life. Help me to identify my idols and destroy them."

Don't be in a rush. Wait for Him to answer. His answers may prompt new questions or requests on your part.

## **3. Let God question you.**

Our natural tendency is to ask God why He does what He does. We think He owes us an explanation. It is the master, though, who questions the servant, not the other way around. In the book of Job, we see God question Job three times (Job 38:3, 40:7, 42:4).

For one week allow God to ask you the questions in your quiet time. What would He ask about your time, your secret attitudes, your goals, your pain, or your fears? What are you giving your life to? When we allow God to interrogate us, instead of the other way around, we put Him back in His rightful place as Lord.

## **4. Let children teach you.**

Pray with a small child and observe the simplicity and sincerity of his or her requests. Ask yourself if your prayers are childlike. If they are not, why? ("I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it" [Mk. 10:15].) Continue to observe children's prayers until you discover new things about your own prayer life.

### **5. Pray through the newspaper.**

As you read the newspaper, pray about people and events. Remember that politics, law, economics, crime, and social issues have implications for us as Christians. Paul urged Timothy “that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

We should pray not only for political leaders, but also for cultural leaders. You can also find issues that need prayer in the sports, comic, entertainment, real estate, and travel sections. Instead of frustration or despair, the newspaper should provoke prayer.

### **6. Set your mind on Christ.**

Think about a different role for Christ each day for a week. For example, Monday—Christ as Deliverer; Tuesday—Christ as Good Shepherd; Wednesday—Christ as Master; Thursday—Christ as Man; Friday—Christ as God; Saturday—Christ as Light; Sunday—Christ as Friend. Meditate throughout each day on Christ’s role and what that means to you personally as well as to the rest of mankind. If you find this helpful, consider expanding your week to a month of meditations.

### **7. Be like Scrooge.**

In A Christmas Carol, Scrooge was taken on a trip into the future to see what he would become. Because he saw where he was headed, he was frightened enough to make major changes in his life. Try imagining yourself 10 years from now, in the year 2012. What do you think your spiritual life will be like then, based on your habits now? Think through your spending habits, thought life, discipline relationships, family relationships, and struggles. We will tend to stay the same and continue to repeat our old habits unless we choose to make changes.

### **8. Take a vow of silence.**

Ours is an age of continual noise. We are bombarded with noise from car radios, cars, construction equipment, television and mobile phones. God does not like to shout, and often waits for our souls to still themselves in silence before He speaks. With Elijah, God did not speak through wind, fire, or earthquake. Instead He spoke through a gentle whisper (1 K. 19:11–12). Why not take a temporary vow for 12 to 24 hours? Remove yourself, as much as possible, from the noise around you. Try not to speak, consecrate that time to God, and listen intently to Him.

### **9. Spend a day with your best Friend.**

Plan a whole day alone with the Lord. If a whole day seems like too much, block off half a day. Think of how you might spend the day with a human friend. Plan a time to share your concerns, needs, or fears. Allow time for just listening and relaxing in God’s presence. Review your annual goals; if you have none, start developing some. Catch up on praying about those requests you haven’t had time to pray for lately. Pray through some hymns. Read a whole book at a sitting. Pray through verses that you have memorised. Rededicate your life, your job, your family, your future.

### **10. Write your own Bible paraphrase.**

Choose a favourite book or long passage from the Scriptures. Think deeply about it every day for a week. Pray through it, attack it with questions, cross-reference it, talk about it with others, and read it in various translations. How would you take these same thoughts and express them to your friends and current generation? Then write your own personal paraphrase.

### **Get started!**

The next time you sense your walk with God becoming routine, try one of these spiritual exercises. They are sure to get your battery started. Better yet, develop your own. By continually adding new and different elements to our spiritual disciplines, we keep boredom at bay.

## WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

<b>Sunday:</b>	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School
	4-45pm:	Open Air
	4-45pm:	Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
<b>Monday:</b>	3pm-4pm:	Cwmcarn Outpost Home League (Zion Baptist Chapel, Cwmcarn)
	6pm-7pm:	Risca Home League
<b>Tuesday:</b>	10am – 11-30am:	Parent & Toddlers
<b>Wednesday:</b>	12-15pm-1-30pm:	Dinner Club
	2pm-3pm:	Friendship Club (for the retired)
	5pm:	Rainbows
	6pm:	Brownies
	6-30pm:	Guides
	8pm-9-30pm:	Bible Study (every other week)

### OTHER DETAILS:

- The summer break is now over, with most activities having restarted already. The exception is the Bible study, which recommences on Wednesday September 11th.
- We do have a 'Community Care Ministries Fund', which helps out with visitation of the community and to buy things like cards and flowers, if required. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see CT Margaret Gregory
- Ever felt you would like to officially belong to the corps here at Risca? How about exploring Adherency? Check out what it's all about by picking up a leaflet on the information table in the foyer. If it's for you – hand the completed return slip to the Captains
- Brand new baby clothes or monetary donations towards the postage of same, are still being requested by Songster Mrs Phyllis Browning. If you can help—please see Phyllis
- If you would like anything included in the corps newsletter, please see Deryk or Claire Durrant
- Webb Ivory Christmas catalogues are available from Songster Mrs Phyllis Browning
- Congratulations to:
  - **Jonathan Hayes** in obtaining two C's at A Level
  - **Jen Barclay** in obtaining three B's at A Level
  - **Alan Gregory** in obtaining three B's at A Level
  - **Lucinda Gough** in obtaining one A, one C, one D and one E at A Level
  - **Dean Brill** in obtaining one B and one D at AS Level
  - **Nathan Browning** in obtaining five A's, three B's and 2 C's at GCSE Level
- Thanks to Phyllis who has taken responsibility for stapling, distributing and collecting the donations for the newsletter
- If you would like anything included on the corps website, please see Deryk or Claire Durrant