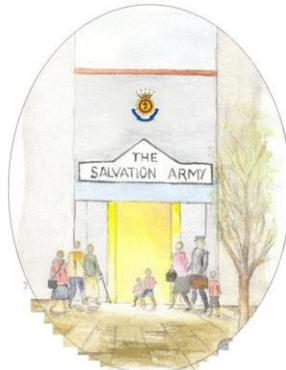




# ***STAPLE DIET***

## ***MAY 2014***



### **Staple Hill Corps**

**- A Good NEWSS Corps for all people**

**(Nurture, Evangelism, Worship, Service to Corps, Service to Community)**

### **Our Purpose is:**

- To be a vibrant, worshipping Christian community actively introducing Jesus to the people of our area.**
- To be a place where all can belong and grow in their relationship with Jesus.**
- To serve the local community.**

# From the desk of the Editor

This being my first edition of the Staple Diet, I wanted to thank you for the support all of you have given me in taking on this task. At time of writing I don't know where it will lead, especially with receiving articles to include in each month's edition but as we know the Lord provides and I know he will in our times of need.

I often think how the Lord provides in our times of need, in our everyday lives we think about how we can deal with what comes our way with the resources we believe we have available to us. Sometimes, it may seem impossible but when we go to the Lord in prayer with our worries things seem to work out don't they? 'For nothing will be impossible with God' Luke 1:37.

This prompts me to think of the following Singing Company song:

With Jesus I can do the impossible,  
I can stand out in the crowd.  
With Jesus I can do the impossible,  
I'm Christian and I'm proud.

*For he has given me life and joy,  
So that I can praise his name.  
For he has given me life and joy,  
So I will praise his name.*  
*Douglas Williams Jr / Kevin Larsson*

Neil Baker  
Staple Diet Editor

# From The



# Officer's Desk

At a recent Community Care group meeting it was suggested that people might be interested in what the role of a corps officer is in reality as compared with what some might perceive or expect an officer's role to be. With this in mind I have kept a note over a 2 week period at the beginning of April and whilst it may contain some extra events it is typical of the way that a week's activities tend to evolve into something that wasn't planned at the start.

During the week every day starts early with my personal devotions and a time set aside for praying for every person connected to the corps personally within the calendar month. To complete this discipline this is usually a two hour activity and is completed before the rest of the family awake.

Monday mornings are often spent in the office at the hall completing the ever increasing amounts of administration that is dropping onto a corps officer's desk. The first week of my diary included arranging for and chasing up hall repairs. A Monday also involves me starting to complete my meeting preparation for the coming weekend. I always endeavour to get my meeting plans to section leaders prior to rehearsal although the titles for the meetings have been produced several weeks earlier. I have for a number of months now tried to complete a number of pastoral visits on either a Monday morning or afternoon and one of the Mondays surveyed included a meeting with a few local officers regarding an ongoing pastoral concern. Mondays usually end with the weekly finance meeting where all monies received are accounted for and bills paid. Occasionally, when we have enough cover completing the books I will drop into Rainbows and Brownies.

Tuesday is the day when if not completed, I will complete the meeting preparation for the coming Sunday and if possible start thinking about the proceeding Sunday. The day will also include the banking of monies accounted for on the Monday evening. One of the Tuesdays included a meeting with a family regarding a funeral service, more pastoral visitation and then a telephone call led to a journey to Yorkshire and back providing transport for a lady who had been trafficked into the country. The second Tuesday included a meeting with South

Gloucestershire council and other agencies regarding this year's Armed Forces Day celebration at which our band are taking a lead role. New instruments were also delivered to the hall on this day. Tuesday evenings are spent at band rehearsals, sometimes providing an extra adult for the YP learners to comply with Safe and Sound regulations.

Wednesdays where possible are an easier day with time off as often as I can make it. However the Wednesdays surveyed involved the finalising of funeral plans, hospital visits and a day of training regarding personnel procedures that will be required in our new appointment.

Thursday is lunch club day where I will support Mary in the kitchen, usually with washing up. Where possible this is combined with a few pastoral visits in the morning. The two weeks surveyed included a funeral service, cover for Mary in Lunch club and representing the Army at a service in the City for the Women's Royal Army Service personnel. Most Thursdays I will at least pop into Senior Challenge to say hello to those who regularly attend. Thursday evenings are often at the hall completing admin or listening in to the singing rehearsals. This is when there isn't either a community meeting of one description or another. Then there was the emergency visit to the hospital to see a member of the corps.

Friday mornings are spent at the hall completing any outstanding administration; meeting up with Mary, the cleaner and setting up the hall for Junior Club following the Slimming World meeting. The evening is spent with the children at Junior Club or once a month providing transport to and from Taunton for the Divisional Youth Band rehearsal.

Most Saturday mornings I aim to at least pop into Coffee Morning and see those that gather on a weekly basis and see us as their corps. It has been great to see a few of these attend several of the Sunday Celebrations that were introduced with the change of the evening programme. Saturday evenings will include a final check of Sunday's meetings.

This all leads us into a Sunday, a day of worship and praise and the whole reason for us being here. If asked 'would I change any of this?' I would have to say yes to the administration but no to everything else apart from being able to spend more time on pastoral work.

**Major Ian**

# Self-Denial Appeal

At the beginning of March, we held the altar services for our Self-Denial Missionary Appeal. This year, a total of £3,216.90 was given by members and friends of our corps. We hope and pray that the money given will be used wisely to support the Salvation Army's work in our partner territories in Mozambique, Pakistan, Ghana, South America East and Finland.

## News about People

Those currently on the 'Wish you were here' prayer list are:

Madge Rickards, Edie Phillips, Marion Davis, Irene Ackerman, Francis & Ruth Shepherd, Gladys Shellard, Edna Heath, Pam Henderson, Gordon Stone, Valerie Scott, Tom and Ruth Cable, Joyce Lear, Gwen Lear, June Wallington.

### THOSE AT COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY

Natasha Bennett (Bristol Uni), Esther Kasumba (U.W.E. Bristol), Esther Dickens (U.W.E. Hartpury, Glos), Andrew Campbell (Plymouth), Paige Hassard (U.W.E.), Bethany Martin (Bath Spa).

Congratulations to Yolanda Kukia who has recently welcomed a baby daughter 'Maria' into the family, a sister for Jeovany who I'm sure will be a great help to his mum, our love and prayers have been with the family.

Band Reservist Frank Snell was Promoted to Glory at the age of 97, Frank came to Staple Hill with his late wife Olive and son Andrew in the 1960's. His funeral service took place here at Staple Hill and was conducted by Majors Ian and Helen Urmston. We think of Andrew and family members at this time of loss with thoughts and prayers.

**Viv Wallington**

## **A Message from Christine Kleinschmidt**

I would like to thank all of you who prayed for me in November following my bike accident on the corner of Westbourne Road. What a place to fall during the school rush!

Thank you to all who sent me cards, texts & telephoned me too!

All were very much appreciated and helped me pull through with God's help.

I am pleased to inform you that I made short journeys on my bike from 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - 1<sup>st</sup> March. I am now able to do journeys of 2 1/2 - 4 miles each way very confidently, so I'm now able to cycle to the gym.

With the road works at Kelston this helps very much as I was waiting an hour some days for the 319 bus.

I have also found a balance with house work. At the time of writing, I am able to do 2-3 chores a day without discomfort to the wrist.

The Orthopaedic doctor told me it can take a year before it will be back to normal; in the meantime I've to avoid heavy lifting.

## **A Message from June Wallington**

I am grateful for your prayers, kind thoughts and beautiful cards. At last I am home, endeavouring to be independent and gain much needed strength. It has been such a comfort to know others are praying with me and for me. Thank you.

I think of Staple Hill Corps with love and grateful thanks.

## **A Message from the Family of Frank Snell**

Thank you all at the Salvation Army for the lovely thoughts & messages for "Granddad".

It is true there will be a Frank size hole which will never be filled. Time however is a great healer. When Major Ian was speaking at the crematorium a piece of foliage fell out of the one of the decorations, it made some of us jump. We think Frank was letting us know he is happy and knew he had to go but popped back to make sure we were ok.

Thank you again.

Jackie and the family.

# A Tribute to Frank Snell

## By Andrew Sims

For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself then he has nought.  
These are very familiar lyrics, belted out at many karaoke nights but underneath those words there may well lie some very important truths.

Frank only shared one thing with 'old blue eyes' as far as I know. It wasn't the voice, it wasn't the fame, and it certainly wasn't the wealth. I don't think he ever ran with a rat pack. I'm not so sure about the Mafia connection. No, the only thing I can think of is the name - Frank.

Francis Snell. He did it his way.

Born almost 100 years ago to pioneering Salvation Army Officer Parents he came to a cold damp England from a very hot steamy Argentina. What a contrast!

I first became aware of Frank when I came to Staple Hill from Cornwall just over 30 years ago. At that time Frank was still playing his beloved tenor horn. Frank was never a large man and so the marriage between him and this instrument was certainly a match made in heaven. Frank, as far as I am aware, never preached a sermon, no his pulpit was in the centre of the band and his sermonising was through his playing. Certainly during Frank's banding days all music available to bands was written or arranged and published by the Salvation Army. No piece could be played without the prior approval of the Salvation Army musical hierarchy in London and so most of the music he played would have, running through them, the words of songs - or hymns.

While Frank wore his uniform with distinction he was always a presence in the background and I especially recall that he always wore his cap. Frank's cap was always the same shape. It looked rather as though he'd slept in it. It was squashed. I've said already that Frank was quite diminutive in stature but somehow, when he put on his uniform and cap he could become six feet tall.

Frank was a man who had a lovely, warm, kind but oh so wicked sense of humour. Even in these latter days, when life has been far from easy, Frank has retained that aspect of his character. Personally I do not recall Frank ever bemoaning his lot. He had major problems with his sight, with

his hearing. He had diabetes which affected his legs and his mobility and yet, up until a fall as he crossed the road to his home in The Hawthorns he had doggedly continued walking as much as possible.

I recall him telling me that he set off to the diabetes clinic but partway there found himself feeling very dizzy, so he sat on a low wall until he felt able to continue. "People were looking at me very strangely" he said "as I sat on the wall. I think they probably thought I was drunk or on drugs". With a chuckle in his voice he continued "Well, they were half right I suppose". Frank even made light of having his leg amputated. "Shan't have to cut my toe-nails on that one now!" he laughed.

Thus far I have, I guess, portrayed Frank as a somewhat lightweight character. That however is not the full measure of this man.

This was a man of deep held conviction. He knew, without any doubt, the difference between right and wrong. He recognised that wickedness and sin were a reality in life. He understood that some individuals did not have the personal strength to manage and overcome the problems and difficulties that arose in their lives. Frank knew his Saviour and he knew that in the Saviour that he knew and loved and worshipped was the answer to overcome all those slings and arrows of outrageous fortune which afflict all of us during our life experiences.

So, I started with a question "What is a man...". The answer as far as Frank is concerned would perhaps have been more likely found in a portion of scripture, in Matthews Gospel 16:6 "For what is a man profited if he should gain the whole world at the cost of his soul".

Frank, in his expenditure of time and talent, through his smile, his giggle, his love and concern all given freely without any expectation of profit demonstrated beyond all doubt that, at the end of his time shared with us here he looked forward with certainty to receiving his reward from the Saviour he loved and served "Well done, good and faithful servant".

I have a picture, in my mind, of Frank, sitting in the heavenly brass band, holding his tenor horn. His cap, slightly squashed, sitting at a slight angle on his head and his face wreathed in that beautiful smile as the band plays 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. Onward Frank, Christian Soldier, marching unto that day when, if we are true, we will meet again. I salute one of life's true Christian gentle men.



*Taken in December 2013 with a few of the younger bandsmen.*



## **Band visit to Reading Central Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March By Chris Painter**

The Band recently visited Reading Central corps for a Saturday night concert supported by Reading Central Songsters at the end of March. For a couple members of the band (Marcus and Haydn) the night would be particularly special as they 'returned home' to their home corps where they had soldiered for many years.

The Band, and our supporters club from the Band League, met at the hall at 3pm, loaded up the coach and set off down the M4. Before we had time to get comfortable we had arrived to a warm welcome from members of the Reading corps who helped us off-load the coach and set up for a quick practice before we were treated to tea, coffee and home-made cakes!

It was soon time to kick-off the concert with Marcus Venables' exciting march 'Abundance'. This was followed by a prayerful setting of Olaf Ritman's 'We are not alone' which reassures us that 'We are not alone as God is with us', a very pertinent message for the band currently as we consider what the cross is saying to us along with the rest of the corps. Next, the Band really got into their stride with Barrie Gott's 'Let there be Praise'. We were really starting to test the acoustics of the recently refurbished hall with that one!

The Band then moved into the soloist section of the programme with solos brought by Marc Willetts (Great is thy Faithfulness), Haydn Brown (You Love Me) and Phil James (The Better World).

Reading Central songsters then brought us a sensitive setting of 'Bow the Knee' a relatively new song that was used at Territorial Music School last year. This was followed by a lively rendition of 'Singin' in the Heavenly Choir'.

The Band then brought what is quickly becoming a modern classic in Army banding and a recent favourite of the Band's, Darren Shaw's

'Guardian of my Soul'. "You know my name and where I'm going, Guardian of my Soul".

The Band then closed the first half with Steven Ponsford's 'Servants of God' which features a couple of modern hymns which you will all be familiar with. You could say this was the band's collective testimony in commitment to God: "I lay my all before you now. In royal robes I don't deserve, I live to serve Your Majesty!"



## **'We live to serve Your Majesty!'**

The second half of the concert was focused on a 'look forward' to Easter. Before this however the band brought a brand new arrangement from a talented new composer from Romford corps, Ed Mylechreest, entitled, "Still, My Soul, Be Still". This was the premier performance of Ed's new piece and went down well with the audience. A lovely piece of music which the Band played very well. Ed's mum Val was actually in the congregation listening and didn't realise that Ed had composed this piece of music so it must have been a real surprise for her to hear it! The Band are now becoming increasingly active on social media and you can catch our recording of this on our YouTube channel and on Facebook, we are now up to over 300 views on YouTube.

Reading Songsters then brought us their final offering of the evening, a new vocal arrangement of 'Psalm 100' - "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord". Thank you to the Reading Central songsters for their contributions and support for the evening.

The band's Easter selection of music included 'Above All' (Andrew Mackereth), Come to the Cross (another Ed Mylechreest composition) followed by a beautiful vocal setting of 'I Know a Fount' brought by Phil James. Not the traditional tune most would be familiar with but definitely a tune that did the fantastic words justice: "I know a fount where sins are washed away. I know a place where night is turned to day. Burdens are lifted, blind eyes made to see, there's a wonder working power in the blood of Calvary." You could literally hear a pin drop when Phil had finished.

This provided a very thoughtful atmosphere for the band's final number, 'Vitae Aeternum'. A powerful piece of music played very well by the band, including a particularly long pause half way through for effect (well watched band!).

Thanks were given to all those who made the evening possible and our own Major Ian Urmston then brought the benediction before the band closed the evening with its traditional finale march 'Staple Hill Citadel'. It was then a quick load up back onto the coach and a sprint back down the M4 to our beds to get some kip before Sunday worship the next day.

Thanks to all those who made this great evening possible. We now look forward to Reading Central Band's return visit to Staple Hill which is likely to be at some point in 2015.

To keep up to date with the Band news and its ministry follow us Facebook, Twitter and YouTube:

[www.facebook.com/staplehillcitadelband](http://www.facebook.com/staplehillcitadelband)  
Twitter: @staplehillband



Written by Vivien Wallington -  
Songster Sergeant

During Holy week the Songsters took responsibility for the Thursday evening where we centred our thoughts on the cross. With prayers, readings, music and the songsters also presented four songs. People were given the time to reflect and respond by writing their own thoughts onto a card.

A number of songsters have been into hospital this year - some of course unexpectedly, but pleased they are on the road to recovery.

The Songsters will be visiting Reading Central corps on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October, already plans are being made, and we would ask for your support in prayer for this visit.

Thank you to those people who already do support the Songsters and often mention how they are blessed week by week through our ministry of singing.

For some time the songsters have had a mission statement which I will share with you:

### We Will:

Proclaim the gospel through music and song.

Bring people to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Encourage spiritual growth throughout the brigade.

Reinforce the Message.

# Youth weekend away by Joe Saint

Our weekend officially started when we all met up at the Salvation Army hall, of course there were late comers; but we left around six to arrive at Heatree Activity Centre in Dartmoor for around 8pm. The theme of our weekend was KFC, otherwise known as Keep Following Christ.

A demonstration of how to put this into practice was to have two members of the youth (me and Adam) to be blindfolded and to have instructions shouted at us. However, there would only be one person telling us the true instructions and the other shouting opposite instructions. The overall idea being that we should ignore all the wrong things in life and try to focus on what God is telling us, and as the leaders proved in that practical it can be hard but if you keep at it you will eventually find him and be able to follow him.

As well as getting closer to God, we also took part in some outdoor activities. We were split into two groups, the older half of the youth with Tash, Rachael and Phil and the younger half with Emily, Sam and Chris. The two activities we did were archery and high ropes, Tash's group did archery first whilst Chris's group did the high ropes. When participating in the archery we played a series of games, but before all that we had to learn how to use a bow first; it's safe to say that some people were better than others at this, but we all managed to, eventually, hit the target. Once we had all had a practice we split into two groups and played a game to see which team could score the highest score overall. It got very competitive but the losing team lost with good spirits.

We played many different games, but Adam and I were disappointed that we couldn't play a game called arrow roulette. A game we had seen on a film called 'Grown Ups', the idea being to shoot an arrow into the air and see who would dare to stay exactly where they were the longest. For some reason Tash wouldn't allow it, nor would the instructor...

After archery came the high ropes. Now it came by no surprise that there was height involved and seeing as me and Rachael have a fear of heights, we weren't particularly looking forward to it; but either way we gave it a try. As a starting challenge, we were told to create the highest tower as we could, within seven minutes, using the plastic boxes available. Two people would be tied into up to the ropes and would have to climb the tower, luckily there were no trust issues amongst us! Me and Adam were the first to make the ascent, we made progress and made it quite high until Adam slipped... he was there suspended in mid-air trying to be pulled up by the girls. Eventually the others on the ground had to build a separate tower for him to get back up, but by the time he had got up time was up. Everyone got a go at the challenge and enjoyed it. Some people made more progress than others and some people fell off more than others, but everyone had a great laugh. This all changed though once we were on route to the high ropes...

The high ropes didn't look at all high on the ground, but this was the activity that would separate the men and boys and vice versa. The first high rope we went on was a balancing rope, but there were ropes suspended from a higher rope to help us across. Everyone had a go at this one, some people quicker than others- this might have been because they wanted to get over and done with- but everyone was very encouraging and shouting support to each other.

If we thought the first high ropes was high than the second one was a new level of high. The only three people that were brave enough to do this were Abi, Tash and Aimee, so sadly me, Adam and Phil can only hang our heads in shame. What the girls had to do was climb up a tree to a balancing pole, and walk across it; but this time there were no ropes to support them. Once they had got to the other side they had to walk back to the centre of the balancing beam and sit down, rap their legs and arms around the pole, then rotate so that they were hanging upside down. If this wasn't bad enough they then had to let go of their hands so only their legs were keeping them up. Next they were told to fall off

and they were then lowered to the ground; but if they wanted they could come down to the ground like spider-man.

I'm speaking on behalf of everyone when I say that it was incredible weekend, and we would very much like to do it again. We give our thanks to Tash for organising it and the other leaders- Phil, Chris, Sam, Emily, and Rachael- for helping making it such a good time, without them it wouldn't have been the same.

## Lighthouse Club

The Lighthouse club started the year by thanking Linda James for her many years of service to the Lighthouse Club and the YP Corps in general; she's certainly going to be a hard act to follow!

The Young People in Lighthouse Club have welcomed Jeovany this term as he joined us, moving up from the Primary. Soon after we congratulated him on the birth of his new baby sister, Maria.

The Young People are currently in the process of getting a new uniform, a lovely royal blue colour. The YP corps has chosen to donate the old uniforms to The Kenya Trust so that they can be used by others over in Kenya. Once the new uniform arrives, if there are any parents who would like to donate their child's old YP uniform then I know it would be gratefully received by The Kenya Trust.

For Mother's Day the Young People made a coaster by doing decoupage on a ceramic tile and backing it with cork, I wonder if they made their Mums a drink to go on it on Mother's Day! Hm...

Weekly, the young people come to Lighthouse Club between 9:45am and 10:45am on a Sunday morning. We read a bible story, talk about it and then think about how it can be applied to our everyday lives. Only the other week we were doing actions to a story and repeated it four times getting faster and faster, I think they were all sleepy by the time they made it to the morning meeting!

I have only been leading Lighthouse Club since January and I must take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and for trusting me with such an important job. Big thanks to Jenny, Kay, Mary and Racheal who are a big support to me.

Laura Baker  
Acting Young People's Sergeant Major

## Cakes Needed!

Homemade cakes are always wanted for Saturday Coffee mornings. If you are one of the growing number of people that cannot help on a Saturday morning why not bake a cake and pass it to Mary White so that it can be frozen and then used on a suitable occasion.

## May Meetings

- |                  |      |                              |
|------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am | Relationships                |
|                  | 5pm  | <b>NO SUNDAY SUPPER</b>      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 11am | A Church For The Community   |
|                  | 5pm  | Sunday Worship               |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | 11am | An Inclusive Church          |
|                  | 5pm  | Sunday Study                 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 11am | Welcome to the Church        |
|                  | 5pm  | <b>NO SUNDAY CELEBRATION</b> |

# Brownies

The Brownies have been very busy this term. We have been learning to knit and with Rachel Nee's help, have created a special blanket for baby Ewan, the son of our helper Cara. Thank you to all who supplied us with knitting needles!!! It has been a good challenge and I think the girls enjoyed it!

This year is an important year for the Brownies; we celebrate 100 years in Girlguiding! We have a special badge to complete as part of the celebrations and many of the tasks look at historical events. We're hoping to look at evacuation during WWII; if anyone could contribute with memories or stories that would be fantastic!

Thank you to everyone who has been saving Sainsbury's vouchers for us, we will keep collecting until they stop issuing them!!

Currently, we are expecting to receive quite a few Rainbows in the coming months and are up to capacity with a waiting list so unlikely to have places unless girls progress through Rainbows (just in case members of the community enquire).

Please pray for the Girlguiding Groups at our corps, they are an important link with our church, as with many of our community sections. Church Parade is church for the girls and their families. Please pop along when you can!!

Hannah and team

# A Spotlight on...

## ... Marc Willets

**What is your job within our corps?** Corps Sergeant Major (since September 2013)

**What is your day job?** Logistics Manager for St Peter's Hospice. On leaving the RAF nearly 10 years ago, I have managed volunteers for St Peter's Hospice. For the last 5 years, I have been responsible for all transport arrangements provided by volunteer drivers which now include our own Wheelchair Accessible car. I also manage our Coffee Shop and support the recruitment & training of all volunteers.

**Favourite Music?** Orchestral Film Music

**Favourite food?** Anything someone else has prepared - usually Kay! Although I do like fish.

**The Worst Trait? (Be Honest)** Impatience, but I'm working on it.

**Your Best Trait? (Don't be modest)** Organising & innovative ideas

**What trait do you most deplore in others?** Dithering

**Your most embarrassing moment?** Too many to mention!

**What do you most dislike about your appearance?** Why worry about what you can't change!

**What newspaper do you prefer, and why?** I used to read the Daily Mail, but only from the back!

**What about books? Do you have a favourite author?** I read a lot using my Kindle. I quite like James Patterson as he writes pacey novels with short chapters - not too much to forget!

**Have you a favourite TV Programme?** Most detective style programmes

**Favourite TV Personality?** I don't have one

**What activity do you most enjoy?** It used to be participating in sport (I still manage the odd round of golf & 5-a-side football for an hour most Mondays!), but now in my middle age, it would be visiting National Trust properties as well as walking, especially around Bristol Harbour

**What is your most memorable moment?** Playing Last Post at the Cemeteries at the Bridge over the River Kwai & at the British Embassy in Thailand before Her Majesty the Queen & the Duke of Edinburgh

**Is there anything about your life so far that you regret?** Wishing I knew 30 years ago what I know now.

**If you weren't you, who would you like to be?** I wouldn't want to be anyone else; I'm me.

**Is there a particular talent you wish you'd had?** To play piano

**How would you like to be remembered?** Just to be remembered would be enough!

# Media Update

In an ever increasing & 'watchful' world of Social Media, the Corps has been looking at new ways to interact with that digital world. The Corps has a website and Facebook page, the band has a Facebook page and posts videos on YouTube of concerts. Take a look... you may be surprised by all the different aspects of the church that takes place.

Using these modern mediums we reach almost 3 times as many people as attend our Church on a Sunday.

## Audio Recording

In order to complement the excellent work the **Link Fellowship** do by recording our services, along with those of other Corps, the Media Team have just invested in an audio recorder to enable us to start podcasting our Sunday Services which will shortly be available through iTunes and a page on our Website.

This opens up the opportunity to many people to participate in our services that cannot attend through short term ill-health, long term ill-health, location, or otherwise.

We've experienced at other corps that do this how they've seen their podcasts listened to by 200+ extra people - so their weekly congregation doubles if not triples in size. We know from speaking to people who can't get to a church or don't feel they can attend, the use of podcasts would allow them to worship in their own home so we hope to generate this interest in Staple Hill Citadel as the corps now is starting to get noticed for what we do online and is being praised for it.

Our Audio recorder is fully portable, enabling us to capture events that occur outside of the premises.

## Visual Projection in the Main Hall

We do recognise that the front projection in the main hall has now surpassed its "sell-by date". The main projector is nearly 10 years old, and is showing its age.

The Media team have received a number of comments regarding the projection of song words, video etc. on the screen as not being

clear enough to read and this is purely symptomatic of the main front projector gradually failing. We are looking into acquiring new equipment to combat this as soon as possible, but as you might guess, visual equipment doesn't come cheap - the current one cost £5,000 when it was purchased, and was state of the art at that time.

Whilst we are working hard to drive the cost of replacement down, we simply do not have the funds to spend on this sort of replacement. So... for now... we will continue to make it as effective as possible until we are in a position to replace the unit. If anyone has any suggestions of how we could potentially raise the funds, or knows of someone that has a second hand commercial spec unit (6000 lumens+), or indeed would like to donate to this project for updating the projector, please feel free to speak to Mark Dickens for further information.

Finally, if you have *any* suggestions regarding the digital evolution of Staple Hill Citadel - please do speak to Mark, or drop the team an email on [contactstaplehill@googlemail.com](mailto:contactstaplehill@googlemail.com)

Thank you for your support.

## **Traveller's News by Mike Dickens**

**April 2014**

March and April have given many new challenges and again very differing working environments. During March I started again in Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland. Lithuania was quite an easy few days with a follow up visit to the new company we opened in Vilnius during November last year. Latvia is quite a hard country to operate in with many links still to the communist states and attitudes. It is ten years since I last worked in Warsaw and this year I will be back there again during the autumn period. It has changed a little with new buildings -but still has a grey and severe appearance in general. We are developing the existing company and preparing a new one for 2014/15 opening.

Something unusual for me is that I have been asked to do some work here back in the UK, so during the end of March I started in three companies here developing them to higher standards of operation. April sees me preparing for a series of seminars in Japan and an important lecture to present whilst there in June at the University faculty on a new engine we have launched. I Leave on Good Friday for 10 days in Japan to assist in the translation and preparation for the time I am there throughout June.

I hope to catch the Cherry Blossom time during my April visit as it is so beautiful and is so dense it looks almost like snow on the trees. We have a Kanda Corps social event during the week I am there and it is a little like a picnic in the park - but also an open air meeting.

Returning from Japan at the end of April gives me just 3 days to prepare for an extended trip to Slovakia and Hungary and get back mid-May to start in Kuwait for the end of the month before back off to Japan until the second week of July.

The Easter message brings a renewed hope for the future as eventually we come to sing on Easter morning "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" My most memorable Easter morning was in the USA where we joined with other churches and had a sunrise service on a high hill top overlooking the city. As the sun rose the band played "He Lives I know that my Redeemer Lives " There were lots of differing nationalities Mexican - Spanish - and of course the Swedish Stockholm Band who I was with, in every language the sounds of the song rose and went across the city on a lovely Easter Morning.

May we all take heart in the knowledge that "HE LIVES -I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES "this Easter.

Disappointed that I will not be able to join you on this special occasion but will be listening to the Easter message in Kanda Corps -Tokyo -Japan.

God Bless all this Easter Time.

# The Kenya Trust

At our Sunday supper in April Hilton Baker, Trustee of the Kenya Trust came to speak to us on what the Trust does in Kenya. It was a great evening of fellowship together which highlighted to us to what goes on, where the instruments that the YP Band donated went and the continued great need for support in Kenya. Here is a recap of what was said for those who weren't able to share with us.

The Kenya Trust celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Its purpose is to support both the music and social programmes which are undertaken by both the Kenya East and Kenya West Territories of The Salvation Army.

During the past ten years we have sponsored ten Territorial Music Schools in one or other of the Territories and we have carried out Music Leaders Training Seminars to strengthen and improve the basic musical skills needed by music section leaders. Over 1500 brass instruments have been sent over (including those donated by Staple Hill YP Band) and many of these have been refurbished in the workshop the Trust has established in Nairobi and keyboards guitars stands and percussion have been included in many of the shipments.

Our main expenditure is focussed on improving many of the 450 SA schools in Kenya and we have provided new classrooms, water supplies, dormitories and in the case of two schools, entire buildings have been replaced with brand new ones.

For 2014 we are providing a health centre to the remote area of Maiani, and this will form part of the outreach provided by the Corps there. Our aim is to have the building complete by the time the Kenya Trust concert takes place on the 15<sup>th</sup> November when we hope to have photographs or video for you to see.

The Kenya Trust is holding a fundraising festival here at Staple Hill on the 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. The concert will be supported by our Band, 'Euph Fellowship' a Euphonium quartet and other guests which promises to be a great night.

# The Heralds

There are many things that go on inside the Corps that rarely get publicised. One of those areas is the Literature Ministry. Each week, David James and Marion Richardson take the War Cry to pubs and clubs around our area in order to 'sell' this great Christian publication (occasionally with the support of others), and David Nee has also just taken on this ministry at the front of our hall on a Thursday. I put 'sell' in inverted commas, because that is not really what happens at all. Infact, they are given away to whoever wants them, usually in exchange for a freely given donation. However, the main purpose of the ministry is to get the opportunity to talk to people that we would never normally come into contact with - building bridges and getting to know them so that we can introduce the message of the gospel in a relaxed way. In old army speak, they are known as 'heralds', and for many our heralds are the only open contact that they may have with real-life Christians.

Woe betide anyone who might attempt to give them any abuse or back-chat as they go on their round, for our heralds are held in such high respect that a dozen people would instantly jump to their defence and the perpetrator would soon find themselves being forcibly ejected from the building! Although it is a ministry rather than specifically for raising funds, the donations given not only cover the cost of the papers given out but also gave rise to £1,938.27 profit across the 2013/14 tax year.

Thank you, heralds. Your dedication week in and week out means so much to the people you meet during your ministry, the Corps and even the reputation of the Salvation Army as a whole.

We are always looking for more people to join this very valuable ministry. If you would like more information on what is involved, then I am sure that any of our heralds would be more than happy to have a chat about it.

# Corps Weekly Activities

## Monday

Rainbows	6pm to 7pm
Brownies	6.30pm to 7.30pm

## Tuesday

Parents & Toddlers	from 9.30am
Young People's Band	6.45pm to 7.45pm
Senior Band	8pm to 10pm

## Wednesday

Baby Song	from 9.30am
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## Thursday

Luncheon Club	12pm
Thursday Fellowship	2pm to 3pm
Singing Company	6.45pm to 7.45pm
Songsters	8pm to 9.30pm

## Friday

Junior Club	6pm to 7.30pm
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## Saturday

Coffee Morning	10am to 12pm
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## Sunday

Primary	9.45am - 10.45am
Lighthouse Club	9.45am - 10.45am
Youth Group	9.45am - 10.45am
Morning Worship	11am

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Sunday Supper 5pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - Sunday Worship 5pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - Sunday Study 5pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Sunday Celebration 5pm

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Simply Sunday 5pm

## Corps Monthly Diary - May

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>

NO Sunday Supper

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

Bank Holiday Monday

NO Rainbows or Brownies

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

Band Concert - 7pm

Tickets from Brian Usher

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Greenfingers 10.30am to 12pm

Home League Fellowship 7.45pm to 9.15pm

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

**Staple Diet Deadline**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

NO Sunday Celebration

Monday 26<sup>th</sup>

Bank Holiday Monday

NO Rainbows or Brownies

NO Cameo

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>

NO Parents & Toddlers

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>

NO Baby Song

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

NO Junior Club

## Corps Monthly Diary - June

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

Praise in the Park - 3pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

Greenfingers 10.30am to 12pm

Home League Fellowship 7.45pm to 9.15pm

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>

Father's Day

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sunday Celebration - 5pm TBC

'C' In the Park - Downend

**Staple Diet Deadline**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>

YP Anniversary Celebrations

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>

Cameo 7.30pm to 8.30pm

# Corps Annual Diary

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May -	Band Concert - 7pm
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May -	Candidates Sunday
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June -	Page Park
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June -	Armed Forces Day (Band leading procession)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June -	YP Anniversary
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July -	Farewell Meeting Majors Ian & Helen + Abi
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July -	Band at Weston-Super-Mare TBC
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> July -	Proms Evening - 7pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> July -	Sam & Emma's wedding
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July -	Welcome meeting Majors Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones + Carys and Senan
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Territorial Music School Final Festival The Forum, Bath
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September -	Back to Church Sunday
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> October -	Visit of Portsmouth Citadel Band (Bandmaster John Hanchett)
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October -	Harvest
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October -	Corps Anniversary
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October -	Songsters at Reading Central
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November -	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> November -	INTO Africa - Concert given by The Kenya Trust supported by Staple Hill Citadel Band, Euph Fellowship Quartet & other guests.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December -	Toy service - 11am Light up a life Service - 5pm
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	YP Carol Service - 5pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Corps Carol service - 5pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December -	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December -	Morning meeting only
Other dates to add in the coming month - watch for announcements	

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

# **Staple Hill Citadel Band**

In Concert with

**Vocal Soloist**

**Hayley Stubbs (Derby)**

**&**

**Pianist**

**Andrew Wicker (Swindon Citadel)**

Tickets £5 each (Under 16s Free)

Available from Brian Usher

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

‘C’ in the Park Celebration  
King George V Park  
Downend

The deadline for entry  
in Junes Newsletter is

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May,**

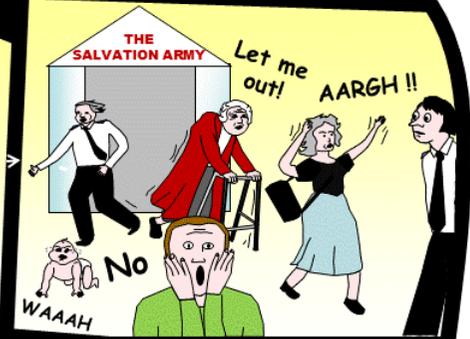
Please email

[stapledietnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stapledietnewsletter@gmail.com)

# On the hill



Time to go to the meeting



What's just happened?



I reminded them it was 'Sunday Study' tonight!!!

H

Majors Ian & Helen Urmston - Commanding Officers  
Marc Willets - Corps Sergeant Major  
Hilary Sims - Assistant Corps Sergeant Major  
Paul Heath - Corps Treasurer  
Linda Hall - Corps Secretary  
Nathan James - Bandmaster  
Liz Brewer - Songster Leader  
Tash Bennet - Corps Youth Secretary  
Laura Baker - Young Peoples' Sergeant Major  
Rachel James - Junior Soldier Sergeant  
Sam Roberts - Young People's Band Leader  
Michelle Dickens - Singing Company Leader  
Margaret Belcher - Primary Sergeant  
Tracey Heath - Corps Organising Secretary  
Viv Wallington - Corps Press Representative



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