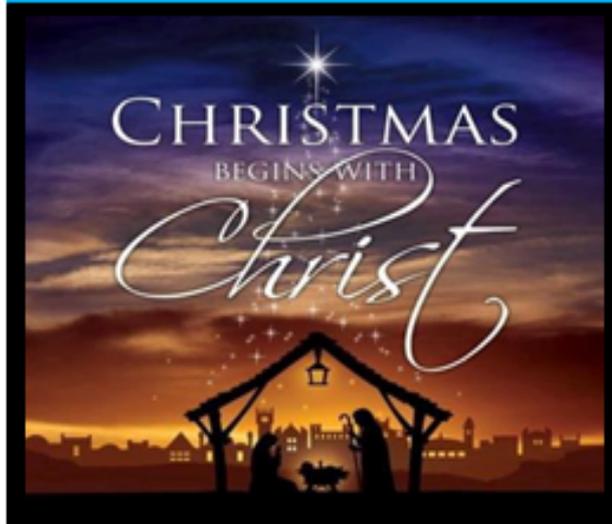


# REACHING OUT

## Christmas / New Year Edition



Rushden Salvation Army

Commanding Officer

Major Richard Crowe

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We have had many events this year to enhance our Corps ministry. Each of you will have your favourite ones. We must say a Big thanks to George Ellitson for arranging these events for us to enjoy. It's not an easy task but George always seems to come up trumps. We must also say thanks to all that have been involved with the events whether performing, catering or supporting. Each of us has a part to play.

As many of you know we have had changes in our administration with Gill Valentine moving on to pastures new and Jo Greenaway coming in to continue this work.

As the business board it was decided that a change of name for the Café and the shop, The Sally Ann's café along with the Sally Anns' charity shop have a vital part to play in the ministry here at Rushden. We thank the staff who work here during the week.

As a Corps we need to pray that 2017 will bring excitement and refreshments to us. Why not support some of the new ideas that will be coming out of the café. Mary our Cook is going to be making homemade cakes and savoury items to purchase to eat in or take away.

We have had wifi installed so that you can relax in the café enjoying a coffee and communicating freely via wifi.

If you have any articles for the newsletter please let send them to [graemea.scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:graemea.scott@hotmail.co.uk) or hand them in to Jo or the Major

## Christmas Time

by [Larrv D Crawford](#)

Yes, Christmas is the time,  
Where little boys and girls,  
Will finally receive,  
Long sought for special toys.

A time when mums,  
Bake cakes and pies,  
When folks will gather,  
Of renewing family ties.

And ones who rarely smile,  
Have grins upon their face,  
Those who always hurry by,  
Have greetings in there place,

They don't even comprehend,  
They say, "tis the season",  
GO on their merry way,  
And never know the reason.

I wonder why that is,  
Why all that "peace on earth"  
It started in a stable,  
With a virgin giving birth.

It's a love I can't explain,  
I will not even try,  
That God would send his son,  
Born - just to die.

But isn't it ironical,  
though Him no honour pay,  
The world spends its millions

To Celebrate His day!

Dear Friends

How do you explain the meaning of Christmas in just a few words? Well the best way I know is this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." No one could outdo what God has done. No one could give a greater gift than God has already given. I would like for us to consider the meaning of Christmas, what it should mean to each and every one of us. Christmas means a lot of things to a lot of different people.

To some it is: a time of shopping and spending, a time of drinking, a time of travelling and entertaining but, what is the real meaning of Christmas? What message should it convey to every one of us?

For me, Christmas is... **A TIME OF REMEMBERING** -remembering the great love that God had for each one of us. He loved us so much, that He spared not His Only Son that we might be saved. -remembering the uniqueness of: His life, His teachings, His miracles, His prophecies, His death, His resurrection -remembering all those humble but great people surrounding the Christmas story people like Joseph & Mary, Zacharias & Elizabeth, Anna, Simeon, the shepherds, the wise men, etc.

For me, Christmas is... **A TIME OF LOVING** People make a special effort to be a little kinder, a little more considerate of others, and a little more generous during the Christmas season. They get involved in such things as Christmas carolling, toys for the needy, meals for the misfortunate, etc. It is a time for reaching out to others with love and concern. God so loved the world let us never forget that!!! In everything we do let us always remember that the motivation for all this is the love of God for lost sinners. He really cares about us. So should we care as He cares? So should we love, as He loves?

For me, Christmas is... **A TIME OF GIVING** For God so loved the world that He gave... Love cannot look with indifference on the hungry, and the sick, and the lonely, lost souls of this world. Love must give. God gave all He could give. He gave His only begotten Son. This gift was freely given, lovingly given, graciously given to all of us, who were undeserving sinners. Christ shared our human nature that we might receive His divine nature. Day by day, those who receive Him are being transformed into His image, until we all come into the full stature of the perfected children of God, washed in the blood of the Lamb.

For me, Christmas is... **A TIME OF FORGIVING** God was willing to forgive us. He was willing to show mercy to a sinful, lost, and dying world. Do we possess His forgiving spirit? Or, is our spirit a judgmental one that looks down upon others? Is there someone we need to forgive today?

For me, Christmas is... **A TIME OF RESCUING** God rescued us by His love and mercy. He saved us from perishing. Without Christ we are without life, and headed for an eternity without God-forever separated from the God who made us and longs to save us. He wants us to inherit eternal life. We are all descendents of a dying race. But for the grace of God, we would all likewise perish. **VI. A TIME OF CHANGING** The Christ of Christmas changes us. He makes us new creatures. All things become new for us. We have new goals, new ideas, new direction, new hope. Christ changes people for the better.

For me, Christmas is.... **A TIME OF REJOICING** -rejoicing in God's unmerited grace, rejoicing in the release of forgiveness, rejoicing in a new life with a new mission. I have tried to share with you what Christmas means to me. What does the coming of Christ into this world mean to you? Have you received Him as Lord and Saviour? If not, I encourage you to come to Him now.

Have a really God blessed Christmas.

Richard (Major)

**Our First Sunday Church Event is with Julian Bright**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> - 6pm with Complimentary refreshments at 5pm**



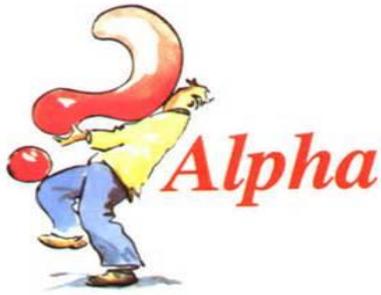
**JULIAN BRIGHT – loves nothing more than to share his faith through words and music.**

Having spent a lifetime using this gift in worship and helping others to connect with God he looks forward to playing his cornet and sharing his testimony in an innovative and creative way



Our Scout Group is holding a Beetle Drive on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Community Lounge to help them raise funds for the Group.

Please support this event if you can , The Scout group along with the other BP Sections help many young people in the local surrounding areas



## Alpha Course

Stuart and I are very pleased to have the opportunity to host an Alpha Course in our home.

Alpha – what's that? you may be asking. The Alpha Course is 10-12 weeks of discovering what Christianity is all about. The talks are on a DVD and the vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton, Nicky Gumbell, guides us through each week. The talks are about 25 minutes in length and then there is time to discuss what we have heard during the evening. The key to Alpha is that whatever question a delegate may have about Christianity, the Bible, God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, suffering, evil etc etc, can be asked.

On 17th October 7 people came to watch the introductory talk and its fair to say that afterwards there was ease of discussion, everyone was respected what each other said and most people who wanted to were able to make a contribution to the evening.

All 7 are keen to start the course on 9th January and we look forward to what God will do during the weeks we spend together.

As the weeks go on in the New Year listen out for comments made about Alpha by those who are attending and if you think you would like to attend one, or you know someone who would like to find out more about what we believe, then have a word with Major Richard.

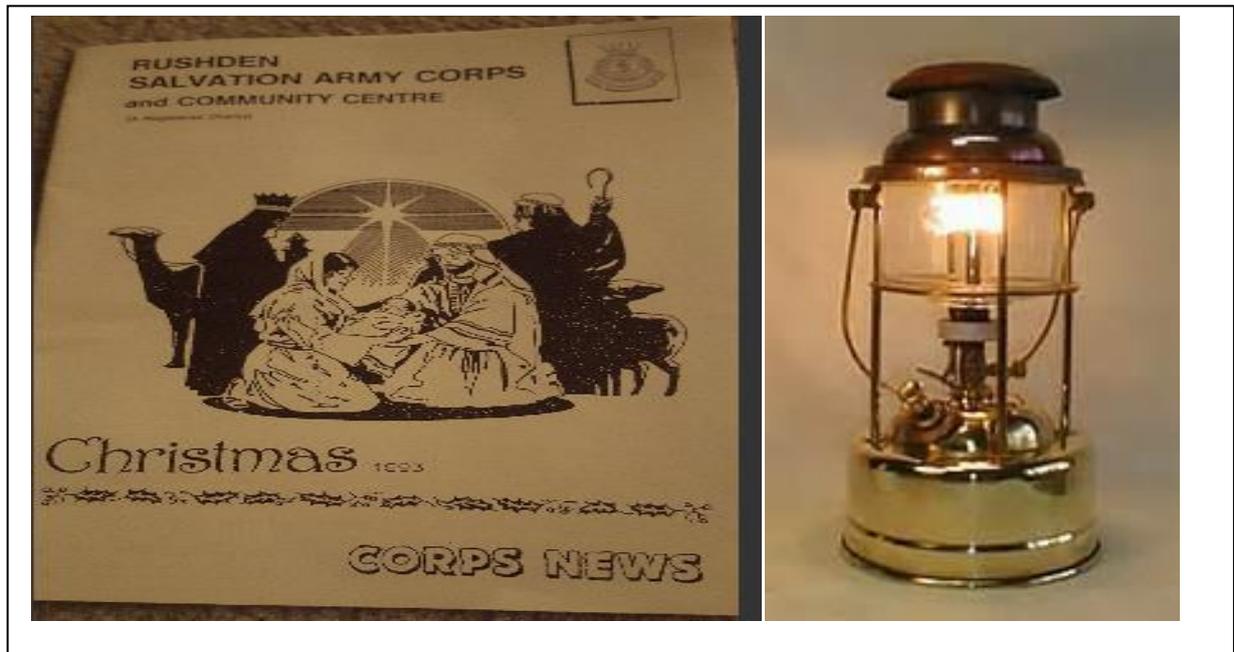
Our experience of Alpha in our previous appointments is that people really enjoy meeting together and learning perhaps what they had forgotten or what they never knew about the faith they profess, and somehow at the end of the course it all makes a lot of sense.

Please pray for the Alpha course and those who come each week, and more importantly for what God will do in our lives as we all immerse ourselves in the Truth.

Anne Crane

**REMEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> January at Stuart and Anne Cranes home**

**All are Welcome**



I came across an old Corps Newsletter dated Christmas 1993 and there was an article written by a soldier of Rushden Corps Tom Brackenbury –

#### A Christmas Memory of The Salvation Army

I was about 14 years old and i can remember my first experience of Christmas playing with the Long Eaton Young Peoples band. It was a bitterly cold night and none of us were fortunate enough to possess overcoats. We walked about 21 miles to the village of Attenborough which had a larger number than average good class properties. I cant recall anything about the finances but it is still clear to me that all the instruments were frozen and it took quite alot of effort and assistance from the old fashioned “Tilley” band lamp to get the valves and slides free enough to begin playing. Street lighting consisted of a few gas lamps widely spaced and there was a fair number of people slipping on the ice and rolling over but it was great fun

#### The Christmas carolling programme in 1993

Sun Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Raunds 2.15pm

Sat Dec 11<sup>th</sup> High Street 10am

Sun Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Sharnbrook 2.15pm

Sat Dec 18<sup>th</sup> after the 11.00am - United Carol Service in The High Street

Sun Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Irchester 2.15pm

Fri Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Budgen 10.30am

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS is 1993 and not this year. What a busy Carolling programme the Corps had.

Our First Special Event is on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> - 7pm when we have the visit of **Belcanto** , ticket price is £7



## About Belcanto Female Voice Choir

**Belcanto** is a female voice choir which was formed in 2008 with just 12 members. They have established themselves at the forefront of international choirs, having been winner of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales in 2012 and 2015.

The group is based in Kettering, England, but have travelled widely in the UK and beyond during their short history.

The choir sings a wide range of music covering all styles and periods, including classical and contemporary works, gospel and musicals, both a capella and accompanied by their pianist, Judith Tomlinson. The members love singing and aim to bring joy to all those who come to their concerts, always striving to uphold the tradition of Bel Canto (Italian for ‘beautiful singing’).

Members come from all walks of life, and include teachers, students, nurses and executives. The ages range from 17 to early 60s, and the group includes a number of mother and daughter combinations.

They are conducted by Barry Clark who was a school teacher for over 30 years before taking early retirement to concentrate on his examining, adjudicating and choral directing activities, which now take him all over the world.

The Rushden Corps of The Salvation Army wishes all soldiers, adherents and friends a joyous and blessed Christmas

May you have a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year  
God Bless You all...- Betty Emerson

I would like to wish all the soldiers, adherents and friends of the Rushden Corps A Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year - Beryl Leigh

May Joy and Peace be with you this Christmas Time and throughout the coming year - Ruth Billingham

To all Corps Members, We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - Christmas Blessings  
- Wendy & Garry Loveridge & Lorraine Blackman

" Love divine all loves excelling , Joy of Heaven to earth came down " We pray you may know this truth at Christmas and always  
- Brenda and Douglas Sparkes

Did you miss our First Church Sunday Event

Another great evening for our First Sunday Church in December with the guests being Gary and Suzanne Rose who delighted us with their musical ability and joining them was Derek Wears who accompanied Gary on the piano



Today is next year's Christmas Memory.  
Make it one that you will always cherish, and be sure to enjoy every single moment.



Christmas is not so much about opening presents, as opening our hearts!

The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents  
but in *His*   
presence



Dear Santa,

I already have everything I could possibly wish for this year. Got my family, good friends and LOVE. Please take care of those who need you. THANK YOU!! XX

