

Our First Sunday Church in February we was blessed with the visit and playing of Julian Bright and the singing of our Praise Chorus. Julian reminded us of these words through one of his solos.

Do you sometimes feel that no one really knows you, And that no one understands or really cares? Through his people, God himself is close beside you And through them he plans to answer all your prayers. Someone cares , someone cares, God himself will hear the whispers of your prayers
(John Gowans)

George and Julie taking part as Mr & Mrs



The feature on Evageline Booth of The Salvation Army (driven by faith Dec16) Brought back memories of when aged 16 in 1960 i ran away to London. The Salvation Army found me a job at Judd Street , Kings Cross making their bonnets. The straw was stitched together by three sisters in one room with me and Bill Pope in another. First it would be dipped in dope then dried overnight. I had to steam the bonnet then put it in to a press after which was the worst job - shaping by hand, which hurt my hands. When dry , it would go back to the sisters to get the ribbons sewn on. I left in 1961 to join the Army . The recruiting sergeant could not believe my job And would laugh every time he saw me

Written by Colin Howitt - Rushden
(thankyou to Betty Emerson for passing this on to us)

The Flowers provided for the Altar Table this month have been kindly donated by

5th March - Ladies Fellowship
12th March - Julie Ellitson
19th March - Sandra Horn
26th March - Sid & Jen Scott

Thankyou



Reaching
Out

MARCH 2017

Rushden Salvation Army
Commanding Officer
Major Richard Crowe
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Quarters: 01933 314738
Hall 01933 353528

Registered Charity No: 214779 & Scotland SC009359

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
Amy Prince who on Saturday 25th March
will be getting married to Anthony
Shepherdson**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
Sid & Jen Scott
Who celebrate their Golden Wedding
Anniversary on Saturday 25th March**

giftaid it

We have just received our gift aid for
2015 / 2016 - A grand total of £3361.51
Thankyou to each one

Bonjour from France....

.. well, I can't believe we have now been living in France for 6 months. In some ways it feels like it has always been our home – is this due to the kindness & acceptance of our lovely neighbours who have made us so welcome and eased us into French life, or that they have gone out of their way to shower us with gifts of free eggs, wood for our log burner, plants for the garden, or just their time? Whatever it is, well love it here! In other ways it feels like we only just arrived but when we look back at the pictures we have been cataloguing of our journey so far we have done a reasonable amount of work, albeit mainly outside jobs due to arriving when the weather was hot & dry. Sadly this has not been the case over the last few weeks as we have had our first taste of winter here in a cold, old house with only a log burner (thankfully installed in time to beat the winter) to keep us warm when the temperature dropped to minus 10, and the snow came thick & fast. Thank goodness for our purchase of an electric blanket to keep us snug and warm through the night. I must admit it was perhaps a little colder than we expected and was just about to have a moan, but then my thoughts turned to all those poor frightened people seeking refuge from war driven countries, not knowing where they would live, when they would eat, or even if they would be safe, and then our French abode didn't seem that bad.

We have cleared out some of the orchard and got rid of the rabbit breeding hutches, and

planted an additional 12 new fruit trees of plum, cherry, and pear to grow alongside the old apple trees already in situ. We have enjoyed the fruits of our labour in the vegetable plot and were rewarded with salad and vegetables at mealtimes. The seed potatoes are now prepared for planting out, along with onions, and the spinach, cabbage, & swede are already poking through. Inside the farmhouse we have installed new kitchen units, a new oven & hob (what bliss after cooking on a camping stove & microwave), upcycled a wardrobe into a kitchen dresser, and stripped back years of soot, smoke, dirt & paint on the inglenook fireplace mantelpiece to reveal a lovely oak beam. The replacement windows/front door are being made at the moment (each window is a non-standard size – the joys of a 130 year old house), the new roof tiles have been agreed and ordered, and we are awaiting a quote for a bathroom/en-suite; there is only so long you can keep going to the neighbours for a shower! (Yes Richard we are still having to use our loo in the barn!),

Our days seem be filled from getting up, to going to bed, but the lovely thing is that most of it comes for free; the wonderful views across the fields which change daily, the walks down the lane to the river, the birds and wildlife that visit our garden on a regular basis, the neighbours dog who calls in for breakfast and dinner, the donkeys that sometimes turn up in our meadow, or the hens that scratch around the garden, next doors cat who climbs in through our bedroom window

to come and get on to our bed, and if that wasn't enough, we have each other for company too. Although we miss our friends dearly, with the modern wonders of social media, email, FaceTime & skype we never feel you are far away and are constantly kept up to speed with the exciting times & improvements happening at Rushden SA. (I wish I could have played a part in your new chapter). We are looking forward to welcoming our first (and hopefully not last) lot of friends over to stay in July and sharing with them a glimpse of our new life here in Auzancette.

Our very best wishes go out to you all at Rushden, and God willing, John and I will be privileged to enjoy this life for a long while yet.

A bientot, Gill & John Valentine

**Rushden Corps
Sunday April 2nd 2017
6pm**

(Complimentary Refreshments at 5pm)

First Sunday Church

Milton Keynes Songster Brigade

We welcome Milton Keynes Songsters back to the Corps.

