



Saffron Walden Corps
Knowing • Growing • Showing
the love of Jesus

Issue name: Connection

Issue number: 3/22

Relationship > Hospitality > Prayer > Spiritual Growth > Community

CONNECT:

Thought: Recently I have been thinking about connection. Many people reported that during the lockdowns they felt isolated and disconnected from each other, and no wonder, as we are created for relationship. Connection is a theme which runs through all our values, connection with each other, with our community and with God. It's through connection with God that we receive the strength and inspiration to live out our calling to share his love with others. Through our missional activities we're seeking to connect with our community, looking for ways in which we can show the love of Jesus. Connection with God is of course an individual thing, but it's also wonderful to be able to meet together to worship Him and discern what He is saying to us. Our testimonies and thoughts help and encourage others. I want to encourage you to take every opportunity to connect with others. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

Going Deeper: Knowing the love of Jesus

We thank God for answered prayer: those people who attended the **Bereavement Café & Community Hub** found it a helpful space to be; it is noticeable how sharing about their experience has lifted the burden. One person said "I've not been able to talk about this before". Connie and the **Transformers** Group had an excellent weekend and were able to connect with God and each other. Friendships are deepening as they meet in an online bookgroup. At the **prayer meeting** last week we prayed for our church, that our fellowship would be like that of the early church in Acts 2. Tony had a vision of a dam being broken, of God breaking through our fears and working through us in new ways: this theme of water has been consistent over the past few months and Jesus himself is the water of life (John 4:13-14). The **Self Denial Appeal** altar service is on 6 March. The transcripts of the videos are available in The Salvationist.

Building Relationships: Growing the love of Jesus

This month we join with these members of our congregation in celebrating their birthdays, asking for God's blessing on their special day.

Patsy: 10 March **Rona:** 13 March

We are praying for Rona, Ray and Janet, asking God to strengthen and encourage them. Last week I was very inspired by a training course for the **Bereavement Café**. Many people experiencing grief find it helpful to have someone to share with outside their group of family and friends. The idea is that those who attend are able to share with, support and listen to each other, which often leads to making new relationships. It's all about connection!

Community Engagement: Showing the love of Jesus

On 30th March we start the **OASIS Drop In**. Please pray that those who are feeling overwhelmed will see the publicity and respond to the opportunity, that they will feel welcome and experience peace and rest. Please pray for those who will be helping, that their hearts will be open to new people and that they will be hospitable. Please keep the **Bereavement Café & Community Hub** in your prayers, it is meeting a real need in our community, with new people attending each time. Please pray that people will have the courage to come, that they will feel welcome, and that the relationships that have begun to be formed will be strengthened. And pray for the facilitators.

We have had a number of enquiries from people wanting to join our **Taketime Lent Course**. Please pray that those who come will encounter Jesus, either for the first time or in a deeper way. Pray also for the leaders as they prepare.

Taketime Lent Course dates:

3 March, 10 March, 17 March, 24 March, 31 March, 7 April at 7.30 pm in the Hall.

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Diary

(please see overleaf for Lent course dates)

March

9th Living Hope 7.30 pm

17th Bereavement Café & Community Hub
10 am - 3 pm

30th Oasis Drop-in 10.30 am - 2 pm

April

6th Oasis Drop-in 10.30 am - 2 pm

13th Oasis Drop-in 10.30 am - 2 pm

15th Good Friday March of Witness 10.30 am

17th Easter Sunday

19th Living Hope 7.30 pm

20th Oasis Drop-in 10.30 am - 2 pm

21st Bereavement Café & Community Hub
10 am - 3 pm

Prayer gathering 7.30 pm

27th Oasis Drop-in 10.30 am - 2 pm

Annual leave

28 Feb-13 March Katrina on leave

22-24 March Katrina and Julia at Divisional Retreat

General Brian Peddle, the spiritual leader of The Salvation Army, is calling on the international Salvation Army family to pray for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict unfolding between Russia and Ukraine.

He said, 'Our service to the Kingdom of God transcends national identity and crosses international borders without prejudice or discrimination. We have officers serving communities in Russia and Ukraine today, and I ask you to pray for them and for those in mourning as this crisis unfolds. We pray for a diplomatic resolution to this conflict and for peace to return swiftly to avoid further loss of life.'

General Peddle acknowledged the strain placed on all Salvation Army officers in each country and thanked them for their service. He said, 'We are dismayed by the loss of life and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ as they continue to serve their communities.'



A prayer for the situation in Ukraine

Father God

We want to bring the people of Ukraine before you today, asking you to help them. We pray that you will comfort those who mourn, give wisdom to those who must make decisions for their families and peace to those who fear. We pray that those who are fleeing will be safe and that neighbouring countries would be willing and able to give hospitality to the refugees.

We pray for a swift resolution to this conflict. That the forces of destruction would be stopped. We pray for those leaders who must respond to it, for wisdom and courage to stand up for what is right. We pray for faith and courage for every Christian and for the church to be salt and light.

Above all we pray that your kingdom will come. That peace and hope and love would rule and that you would be acknowledged as Sovereign God.

We ask in the name of Jesus, Amen