

REGULAR CORPS EVENTS

- Sundays **Meetings at 9.50. 10.30 a.m.. 4-30 p.m.**
JAM Club— Jesus and Me 11.10 a.m. For young people
- Mondays **Silver Threads Club** Lunch 12 noon. Meeting 1.45p.m
Fortnightly—Next one on 11th January—CANCELLED.
Bible Study Weekly, 7.30 at the hall with Major Tony.
next one 11th January CANCELLED
- Tuesdays **Open Door and light lunches** 10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Parents and Tots 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Home League 1.30 p.m.
- Wednesdays **Cameo Club**—second Wednesday each month 7.30 p.m.
- Thursdays **Open Door** 10 a.m.—12 noon
Open Songster practice 1st Thursday each month
- Fridays **Coffee Morning and Luncheon Club** 9.30 a.m. and 12.15.
Youth Club 8—11 yrs old. Monthly, 7—8.30 p.m.
- Saturdays **Walk** first Saturday every month. Details from Barrie,
Andy or Gladys
Coffee Morning on third Saturday each month. 10.30 a.m.

Looking ahead:-

- Sunday 10th Commitment Sunday— POSTPONED UNTIL 24TH
4.30 meeting Songs of Praise.
- Monday 11th Bible study CANCELLED
- Thurs 14th Churches Together in High Wycombe 7.30 p.m.
- Sunday 17th Visit of Major David Scott
- Sunday 24th Andy's Celebration of Talent 4.30 p.m.
- Sat 6th Feb Concert by Central London Fellowship Band 7.30
- Sun 7th Feb Launch of Self Denial.

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High Wycombe Corps
Frogmoor

COMMANDING OFFICERS
MAJORS TONY AND SANDRA FROST



Standard Bearer

January 2010

Year 9: Issue No. 11

Dear Friends

It hardly seems possible that another year has come and gone. 2010 offers us new opportunities; new potential; new blessings from God.

The New Year also gives us a chance to have a good clear out. As we get rid of the cards and packaging associated with Christmas we often, also, take time to clear away other accumulated clutter. We take time to throw out old decorations that have become tatty or tawdry. We might even go so far as to consider whether there are garments in our wardrobe which we no longer want. (Or no longer fit us!)

And there is something satisfying about having a clear out.

The fact that we have dared to challenge our need for particular things is often rewarded by the realisation that we have been keeping things for no good reason. There is a positive buzz that comes with letting go. It's that feel-good feeling of release and liberation that comes from a willingness to acknowledge our dependence on something other than the material objects we keep around us.

To a lesser or greater degree they physically represent what we are and who we are. For some people their possessions are the outward projection of their aspirations and dreams. For others they are the security of a lifetime's investment. For others they are the reward for years of labour and toil. No wonder then that we have such an attachment to the things we possess.

But they are only "things"!

There is something of far more value and worth than the accumulated possessions of the years. And surely that is our relationship with God! The challenge that comes to us in dealing with the clutter of our lives also relates to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

- Are there things that are getting in the way of our closeness with God?
- Have we allowed ourselves to be so busy that we have little or no time for God
- Have we allowed ourselves to become distracted by things which we consider to be more important than time with the Saviour?
- Are there relationships which are hurting our closeness to God?
Do we need to be forgiven or to be forgiving to someone else?



Cont...

These are questions which only we can answer for ourselves. No one can know how our relationship with God is – except ourselves! We ourselves have to be willing to be honest before God and clear out the clutter that is impeding our closeness to Him. No one can do it for us, because no one knows our heart, other than ourselves and God.

This New Year we have opportunity again to consider our commitment to God. We can take time to look at what God wants us to get rid of and what God wants us to strengthen and develop. We can ask ourselves the questions which will help us discover what God wants of us in these days. And through that experience we will hopefully discover the many new and bounteous blessings God wants to pour upon us.

May you find much pleasure in serving God this year. May you grow in your love and your desire to worship him. May you experience a fresh infilling of his Holy Spirit. And may you know again the personal blessing of being his servant.

God bless you in 2010.

Major Tony

Because of the Weather.....

Commitment Sunday postponed until 24th January

Silver Threads on 11th cancelled.

Bible Study on 11th cancelled.

Monthly Coffee Morning

The next one will be held on 16th January at 10.30 a.m.

These are proving to be very popular and despite the weather the December event still raised £100. This is for much needed Corps funds. Thank to members of the walking group who organised the last one.

If you are a section leader or have a group of friends in the Corps who would be able to run one of these, please speak to

Majors Tony or Sandra.

And make sure you pop in on the 16th if you are in town.

Jumble Sale 16th January

On the same day as the coffee morning there is to be a jumble sale in the rear hall. Help will be needed on Friday, between 2.30 and 6p.m, and after the sale, about 12 noon or 1 p.m., for preparation and clearing up. Volunteers especially for those times and for the sale itself, desperately needed. Please, if you are able bodied and available

A big thank you from Major Tony

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the Christmas period so successful and beneficial to the Corps. I don't want to name individuals – you know who you are – but I am sincerely grateful to those who gave so much time and energy in ensuring that our busy Christmas programme was successful.

So many people were able to hear the Christmas message through music and personal contact. We will never know the full impact that has been made on individual lives; we have to leave that with God. But I know that the message of the Saviour's incarnation has been received by many who would not have given much thought to what Christmas is about.

So, thanks once again! And before we know it we'll be doing it all again!

And from Bert....

"I am extremely grateful to all who contributed socks and toys for the men and their families at HM Prison Grendon. They were received with much gratitude, and the prisoners send their sincere thanks. They always appreciate the fact of 'being remembered' and have asked me to pass on their gratitude. So to all who contributed, I add my personal thanks, and in giving unto others, you will be unable to keep such happiness from coming to you.

Further good news is that in December five prisoners were baptised. The Methodist chaplain brought in a portable baptistry, and the five young men all gave their testimonies before their total immersion. This was a very exciting time, not only for those who were baptised, but for those who witnessed the happening in a packed chapel. There were shouts of encouragement and loud applause as each man 'went under'. It takes a lot of courage to fly the flag in public and for the five, such an act had a tremendous impact upon their fellow prisoners.

A year ago four men were baptised and already there are enquiries about preparation classes for the next baptism. This is a tremendous encouragement for the chaplaincy team, and proof again of God working in what sometimes looks like unlikely places. The prayers of the Corps congregation will always be appreciated for the work that is done in Grendon."

WHO ARE YOU



I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). Eph. 1:1
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil. 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I can approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am a branch of the true vine, a channel for His life (John 15:1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16) I am complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3) I have been justified (Rom. 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1) I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14) God has adopted me (Eph. 1:5)
I'm the child of the King
I belong to God
Do you?

More than a cleverly worked out pattern, this could well become
A pattern for a month's Quiet Time Bible readings.
Encouragement and Challenge in plenty.

It was on a snowy night !

Stuart Dobson

All secure and cosy in our home, playing scrabble as the TV reception had disappeared (how inconvenient!), little did we realise the mayhem taking place just 200 metres away.

The 'phone rang just after 10pm on Monday 21st December. Major Tony was at the Army Hall with quite a few people stranded because of the heavy snow conditions. Tony had earlier researched the town centre, satisfied there was a very real need by those whose cars were abandoned and who lived in outlying areas too far to walk.

The West Wycombe Road was bumper-to-bumper with cars and lorries but our amazingly easy journey to the Hall revealed a town absolutely gridlocked with traffic and abandoned vehicles.

Gwyneth and I were greeted by Tony and Sandra and 15 – 20 people of all ages chatting quietly, warming up with soup, tea, coffee and mince pies etc. This was a calm and very moving scene, not least the family of four generations who lived too far outside High Wycombe for their two young boys to walk. They had spent the afternoon at the pantomime in the Swan Theatre.

Amongst our 'visitors' were elderly couples, businessmen and women, groups of young people and others (including our local Mayor) who spotted our notice board on the pavement and came in for a hot drink etc. before continuing their journey. A Turkish lady had fallen in the town centre, hurting her knee and in great pain. The ambulance arrived after midnight but, in the meantime, she was collected by a relative and taken to hospital.

Around 11.30pm I checked out the bus station to find a man of 70+ years who could not get back to Uxbridge. He had been there for over five hours as buses had long since stopped running. He was very cold and I helped him back to the Hall. A lady who, of all days, had forgotten her mobile 'phone and was forced to abandon her car – used one of our 'phones to let her family know she was safe.

At about 1a.m Tony and I and Ross, (one of our 'visitors') trudged through the town, splitting up to check out subways, abandoned cars, the Eden Centre and any other areas under cover for anyone who might be sleeping rough. We asked passers-by if they were ok for getting home. Philip Keates joined us at this time – he had just made it back from London after an evening at a concert. To walk round an almost deserted Wycombe in such conditions was, to say the least, surreal, and an experience I will never forget.

cont. on facing page...

I had some blankets in my car and with these, quilts and sleeping bags from the basement, many of those mentioned and others settled down for the night on rows of chairs. Tony, Sandra and Philip kept an all-night vigil after we left for home at about 3.15am, by which time rashers of bacon were defrosting (the Frosts think of everything) in readiness for breakfast. The Majors stayed on until early afternoon when everyone was safely on their way – about 18 people had stayed all night.

What a night – but there was room and shelter at The Salvation Army 'Inn'.

About 50 people all took advantage of the warmth of the welcome at the hall for a while, whilst the final count for people staying overnight was 22.

A few evenings later the Mayor telephoned the officers to see if help could be provided for two elderly ladies stranded again in the town centre. Majors Tony and Sandra trudged down to the hall and made the hall available as a refuge until a taxi driver was found who was willing to take the ladies home. Majors Tony and Sandra finally arrived home at about 2.30 a.m. (Thank you Madam Mayor for your assistance on that occasion.)

Carolling

The Band is to be congratulated for its very hard work during the advent season, when in very cold conditions, they not only took the Christmas message to many people, but also raised £6466. Shoppers and travellers at Marylebone station stopped to listen for an instant and sometimes made very appreciative comments before going on their way. It was a valiant effort, and a big thank you is due to all the members of the band.

First socks for men now shoes for children.

Kenny has visited us at Open Door. He visits several countries, - Kosovo, Ghana, and Romania taking with him things that are sorely needed by people who suffer great hardship. At the moment he needs children's shoes. If you have any, please pass them to Gladys who will make sure that they reach Kenny. They do not have to be brand new, but they do need to be in good condition.

Change for Change



Within a very short time the JAM club scheme to encourage people to bring their small change to raise funds for a special project, brought in £130. Benedict believes that sum will reach £150, still time for you to bring in your small change. It seems that most of us empty our pockets and purses of those odd coppers and put them aside for a rainy day. Very soon we will hear what the young people have decided to do with this sum of money. Undoubtedly it will be something that will change lives for the better. Well done to our thoughtful and innovative young people. The idea has now, through Benedict, reached THQ, where it has been enthusiastically received. We will hear more of Change for Change!

Where did it all go?

Toys from the toy service and other gifts went in various different directions, as follows:-

Saunderton hostel.

Grendon Underwood Prison, for families of prisoners.

The women's refuge.

Individual families recommended by health visitors and social workers.

Money raised by Gladys' 'no card' scheme, approximately £212, is being shared between the MacMillan nurses, Save the Children and the Child Bereavement Trust. If you still wish to donate, Gladys will



Flowers

The advent wreath for 2009. One of the last arrangements of the year. We are grateful to Jacqui for her faithfulness every week in preparing the flowers for the hall. Now there is a new flower list. Please fill in your name for when you would like to provide the flowers.

Corps Directory

One correction Bob's number is 01494 718454

And his post code is HP15 7JW

One new entry Tessa's phone number is 01494 440583

Answers - Christmas Quiz - Answers

We all know exactly what God's Word says about the Christmas story, right? Or do we sometimes let tradition overshadow the truth?

Dates and Mates

1. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel?
d. Who knows? Information not given in Scripture.
2. When Mary became pregnant, Mary and Joseph were
c. engaged
3. When Mary became pregnant *b. and c.*
b. Joseph wanted to dissolve their relationship
c. Mary left Nazareth for a while. To visit her cousin Elizabeth
a possibly—Matthew 1. 24.
4. Christmas has always been observed, when
d. Dec 25th, but only since the latter part of 4th century.

Kings and Wings

5. Who directed Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem? *c. Caesar*
6. How many angels spoke to the shepherds? *C. one*
7. What song did the angels sing?
d. none of the above Luke 2: 14—praising God and saying....

Barns and Yarns

8. The baby Jesus was born in
e. Who knows? Assumed a stable, which could have been a cave because he was laid in a manger.
9. What animals were present at Jesus' birth?
d. At least none mentioned in Scripture.
10. What is a manger anyway?
c. a feeding trough
11. When did the baby Jesus cry?
b. whenever babies usually cried, probably. No information given in Scripture

Signs and Lines

12. Joseph's family was from *c. Bethlehem*
13. What sign were the shepherds to look for? *a. a baby in a manger*

Wise Guys and Testing Lies

14. How many wise men came to see Jesus?.....unknown
15. What in the world are Magi anyway? *c. astrologers probably but*
d. as well—wise enough to follow the star.
16. When the wise men brought their gifts, they found Jesus in
b. a house Matthew 2:11.

**New columnist, Andy Peddle,
Talks about someone else!**

When May played the part of an angel in the nativity scene at the Corps carol service last year, it was an instant reminder of her infectious sense of fun and her eternal youth. Here are:-

Ten Things You May Not Know About May Mounsher

1. May was born the daughter of Arthur and Grace Norton at Bridgewater in the year 1935.
2. Seventeen years later she became Singing Company Leader and was still in that position when she married the Junior Band Leader Malcolm Mounsher., the junior sections providing a guard of honour at their wedding.
3. They moved on to Hanwell spending many happy years, before coming to Wycombe with a family of four lively boys, Carlton, Hayden, Lyndon and Railton. May is very keen to refute any suggestion that they are named after hotels.
4. May's second name is Ursula. In fact, Malcolm's pet name for her is 'Urse'. You may already have noted that her initials spell mum.
5. If you make an anagram of May Mounsher, you might well come up with 'hear nosey mum' or 'oh man, my Urse'.
6. Her hobbies include walking, swimming, badminton and in her prime, athletics, when she was the anchor leg in the Bridgewater Torchbearers relay team (one omission is singing, which surely should be included, because she is almost certainly the longest serving singing company member in the Salvation Army, with 67 years of singing under her belt and still going very strong.
7. For 25 years May has opened her back garden for an annual BBQ, inviting all the young people of the Corps to attend. She has also served as the Junior Soldier Sergeant for the past 11 years, helping young people to understand the meaning of becoming a junior soldier.
8. 8may's favourite food is probably French cuisine, although she really enjoys anything if someone else is cooking it.

9. Appropriately enough May's choice of a favourite song is:-

“Saviour if my feet have faltered on the pathway of the cross
If my purposes have altered or my gold be mixed with dross
O forbid me not your service, keep me yet in your employ.
Pass me through a sterner cleansing is I may but give Thee joy.
All my work is for the Master, He is all my heart's desire.
O that He will keep me faithful in the day that tries by fire.

10. Finally, May's choice of Bible reading is equally apt:-
John 14: 1-2 (NIV) “Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms, it it were not so I would have told you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you also may be where I am. You know where I am going.”



**From David and Anita
in Australia**

As usual— I'm late...sorry to have missed your deadline (for Dec. magazine), but here is our greeting anyway

A happy new year to you all at High Wycombe. It is always great to catch up with your news by reading the Standard Bearer online. As a family we have now been worshipping at the Uniting Church in Ipswich for the past three years (www.gleberd.com.au) Anita has her own book-keeping business and David is still in the police service working in child protection. Zac has just finished year 8 at the Ipswich Grammar School, a year in which he was part of the winning team at the district maths competition. Lauren has just finished year 3 at Raceview State School and is a keen participant in little athletics each Friday evening, where her best events are the walks. David's great love for the past three years has been participating in triathlons. Noosa and Mooloolaba are two of the biggest Olympic distance triathlons in Australia and he has been improving his performance each time. Every blessing to you all for the coming year.

David, Anita Zac and Lauren.

**Next Youth Club
Feb 5th. 7—8.30 p.m.
For children between the ages of 8 and 11**

Festival/Concert Central London Fellowship Band

Conductor David Daws

February 6th 7.30 p.m.

Salvation Army Hall, High Wycombe

Soloist Chris Deacon—Regent Hall and
Co principal of the LSO.

Solo cornet Alan Garratt

Tickets £5 from 01494 674692 (Trevor Austin)

In aid of the

Rosehill Children's Home in Gadala, India.

Where 162 orphans and 39 widows are cared for.



Christmas Eve Late

A huge queue was waiting to get into the Litten Tree as we arrived at around 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve to start setting



up our tea table outside the hall. Some in the queue waited a very long time before gaining access and many gladly accepted cups of tea or coffee, along with a mince pie or biscuit, to warm them as they waited their turn. As in previous years they were so appreciative, some insisted on giving us money, although we were not selling our wares, just providing a little comfort and letting them know that the Salvation Army, as a Christian church, is interested in them. Kim and Rob, their first time this year, took trays of drinks and kept waiting taxi drivers well supplied, and also the doormen at two of the local hostelrys. This year we had a band of three - Mark, Helen and Jackie - who played carols, reminding the queue just what Christmas is all about. No accurate count was made, but at least 100 cups were used. We can only pray then, that at least 100 young people might have a slightly different perspective about Christianity and it's Founder.

Toy Service



Happily the toy service preceded the snow, though it was a very cold evening nonetheless. The Mayor, Councillor Julie Prichard, along with her fiancé, attended the occasion. Through the generosity of the people present, and also



from other sources, such as a church in Princes Risborough, which made contact and offered the gifts from their toy service in exchange for Major Tony going to preach at one of their services, which he gladly did, many toys



and gifts were given and would be distributed to various organisations. (see page 12) A school choir, from Holtspur, under the direction of Mark Selwood, brought a variety of songs and quit themselves very well. Finally they were joined by our own Singing Company, the two groups



joining together beauty fully. The Y.P. band was on duty for the occasion and other Corps sections took part also..



The traditional nativity scene brought its own reminder of the Christmas message.



And then came the snow!

And were we downhearted, well maybe just a little. It meant that far fewer people were able to attend the Corps carol service, and such a pity that was. What an enjoyable time we had, with all the sections taking part, including the timbrels. A number of people read the Scriptures, giving the story of Christmas, Tadjudswa again did his thing with 'silent night', and what about the film clip of the three wise men on their motor bikes. Finally the brilliantly written drama (thank you Andy) focusing on the three wise men, being played by Tristan, Georgina and Ali, as they followed the star. Another nativity scene completed the evening with a few adults standing in for young people who were unable to get through the snow. The informal Open Door carol service did not take place at all. The day after the night before, (page 4) there were still people who had stayed overnight and virtually no-one able to get very far from their homes. A similar story for the Christmas morning meeting, but those few who did manage to reach the hall enjoyed a time of contemplation before hurrying away to various celebrations with family.



However, nothing could stop the fun, indeed the hilarity, of the new year's eve social. Beginning with an ample provision of food, enjoyed by all and prepared by the usual team, we then settled down for a game and a quiz. And oh the missed photo opportunity, but how could anyone have been prepared for what would happen when Tony asked for a scarf? You know the game, a team on each table, each, supposedly, with a runner to take requested items to Tony as soon as found. (I think all the ladies on our table had new handbags for Christmas as we certainly had very little in them!) You can ask Armintha, it was her scarf, but you really needed to be there! The Christmassy quiz brought it's own fun, and how competitive we all are. Looks like Barrie (pictured) got a question right, but I was the only one who knew that Martin Luther set up the first nativity scene.

Finally a very special watchnight service, with Major Tony focusing on new things. It made me think, hard. And then Auld Lang Syne, hugs and greetings and the start of a brand new year.



Into 2010

It must be one of the strangest turns of the year for many years, with the weather having such an impact of every part of our lives. However, the first Sunday of the year saw about 60 or so of a congregation for our morning meeting. William and Matthew were placed as the god Janus to guard the door for a while. This god looks both ways, backwards and forwards, to the old and towards the new. Had he ever existed, this year he would have seen a lot of snow in both directions. But nevertheless, the meeting was thought-provoking, again thinking about the star, as we were reminded that Epiphany, the celebration of the visit



of the wise men to see Jesus was on 6th January. (By the way how did that golden star get hung up so high)? We were given the opportunity to write a prayer for 2010 on a paper star ant to place it on the mercy seat. We also learned that our problems are nothing compared with Barrow in Alaska. Their weather forecast as I type on 9th Jan. is

for temperatures of -39 overnight, the highest for tomorrow being -21. And as there is no sunrise for several months, it will be pretty dark.

And talking of the weather—A quote from the Mayor, gleaned from the Bucks Free Press

"...our thanks must also go to:.....and most of all to the likes of the Salvation Army—who opened their doors to those who were stranded with children so that they had somewhere warm, safe and dry to sleep for the night. And it is from there I have just come. I have had the privilege to take part in some of their services and times like tonight just highlight that there are some amazing people in this town who still care passionately about humanity and our community—and despite the adverse conditions and the extremely difficult highways issues I, for one am proud to be mayor of a town that is home to such fantastic people.