



## Milton Keynes Salvation Army newsletter

### Pause for thought

I wonder if you prefer the idea of 'meteorological spring' which seems to be a more recent trend that suggests Spring starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> March or do you prefer to stick to the 'solstice spring' that starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> March?

I don't think we can argue that each year spring seems to start a little sooner, I'm pretty sure the snowdrops were out in December, and they are saying crocuses are out a month earlier than normal. However, you might feel about this, there is something special about the world 'waking up' after a long winter. I know in myself the sunshine and slightly warmer days have lifted my spirits made me feel a bit more energized.

'See! The winter is past;  
the rains are over and gone.  
Flowers appear on the earth;  
the season of singing has come,'  
(NIV)

Song of Songs 2:11-12

In recent days we have much to unstable us, much to give us worry, anxiety, sadness; both in our own community here in MK and in the wider world events happen that make us fearful and doubtful.

Jesus reminded his disciples just before their world was to come crashing down on them that ... "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

We can't ignore the 'trouble' in our world, and we do need to grieve and lament and acknowledge the things that give us fear and anxiety but as Jesus reminded his disciples, we do have the promise of peace, His peace. I find in that promise a hope and the season of spring helps a little with that; as I look for signs of the earth waking up, I also look for signs of God's hand at work in myself, in those around me and in the world., waking us up.

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring." (author unknown)

Blessings, Major Jo



### Prayers list



**"Creator God, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world. We pray for an end to violence, war, and bloodshed**

**. Guide world leaders with wisdom and courage to negotiate with justice and truth**

**. Heal the hearts of those filled with hatred and comfort those grieving or afraid**

**. Make us instruments of your peace, that we may work together to build a future where all people live in safety, harmony, and love**

**. Amen."**

## Weekly activity in MKSA

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 10.30am<br>CAMEO  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 7.30pm Songster practice  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9:30 am Prayer Meeting<br><br>10.00am -12noon<br>Coffee on the Corner<br><br>7pm Bible discussion group |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 9.30am -11.30am<br>Little Treasures Stay and Play<br><br>7.30pm Band practice                           |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Stony Stratford papers  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 10:30am meeting   |



## Dates for your diary

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Morning meeting – Major Jo

Lent Theme: 'Hidden Peace'

6.30-8pm Youth Fellowship

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Mothering Sunday – Major Steve

Lent Theme 'Hidden Love'

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** led by our Divisional Area Officers Major John Mclean & Major Lydia Bartlett.

**Meeting will be followed by a fellowship lunch of soup & roll.**

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Palm Sunday – Major Steve

### Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7pm

Holy week meditation led by the band & songsters

**Good Friday reflection, 10.30am**

**Easter Sunday Celebration, 10.30am.**

## Focus on our Corps community:

Please note that Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March our Divisional Area officers are leading worship, this will be an opportunity for them to get to know us as a corps but also for us to get to know them a little too; we plan to have a fellowship lunch (soup & roll) after the meeting so please let us know if you plan to stay for lunch.

As Holy week approaches, please see above the dates for the program that week; we are hoping to make space and time that week for prayer & reflection using the theme 'Journey with Jesus'. There will be a series of prayer stations set up that people can in their own time move around and use the space for their own response to Holy week, more details to follow.

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