

# The Salvation Army

# **B** **SCOMBE**

Palmerston Road  
[www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk)

**Sunday 13 September 2020**

**Recorded Morning Worship led by  
Majors David and Jane Alton**



**To KNOW Christ ~ To LIVE Christ ~ To SHARE Christ**

# **BOSCOMBE CORPS NEWS**

## **Prayer Requests**

We have a number of our corps family who need our prayers at the moment for various reasons. Please pray for Ella Wright, Lynette Gregory, Colin and Alison Lowe as they continue to recover from recent medical procedures. Please pray for Jemaya Bailey's dad, Tony Cade, and Jude Hendry's dad, Geoff, both of whom are seriously ill in hospital. Please pray for any you know who are facing difficult circumstances relating to employment, health or relationships. Pray for those who live alone and for many of the older members of the congregation who are finding this time particularly difficult. (Thank you to all those who are helping, making phone calls or sending cards – maybe there are others who would like to do something like this).

## **Update**

Following discussion with the Corps Leadership Team we are making tentative plans to open the hall for worship in the next few weeks, initially to enable those who cannot access online meetings to come and engage with the recorded meeting at the hall. The required risk assessments and related paperwork have been submitted to DHQ for official approval. We are also awaiting further clarification following recent Government announcements. We would reiterate that Government guidelines advise that worshipping communities continue to provide online services and that, in the event of on-site meetings, singing and brass playing are not permitted. A date for commencement and detailed procedures will be issued once clarification and permission for us to proceed has been given. Please bear with us and continue to pray about the way forward.

Majors David and Jane

## **Newsletter**

If you have any news that you would like to share, why not let us know and we will add it to the next edition of the newsletter.

## **Bring Me Sunshine!**

Remember, if you have a joke or story that you would like to share with the Corps, please send it to Joanne who will include it in a future edition of the 'Bring Me Sunshine' page. You can either contact her via text, WhatsApp, Messenger or by emailing her on [joanne.allcock@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:joanne.allcock@salvationarmy.org.uk).

## PRAYER MATTERS

**Monday 14 September** – (NSB999) We pray for the situation on the island of Lesbos where fire recently engulfed the largest Greek migrant camp in Moria, “home’ to nearly 13,000 people... more than 4 times the official capacity. Pray for compassionate, humane treatment for migrant people. (BBC News)

**Tuesday 15 September** – (NSB814) International Day of Democracy: real democracy is the very noble, precious gift of freedom, both political and social.. a power of the people, a way of governing which depends on the will of the people. (regrettably, couldn’t find any dictionary that defines it as removing many 1000s of postboxes just before elections!) But this prayer confirms the real meaning of democracy: *Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the democracy alive in our country and for our freedom to worship You. Help our elected government and all in positions of power and authority to govern wisely and for the common good of all.* (IN)

**Wednesday 16 September** – (NSB785) Covid is still an increasing threat to all of us. THQ call us to fervently re-double our prayers for the Covid situation worldwide. The question asked is ‘How will our Lord answer if we, The Salvation Army re-double our prayers... *pray without ceasing*... in the fight against Covid. THQ have sent a new resource website that they say will kick-start our ‘prayer without ceasing’ and get us fitter in the process. The Evangelical Alliance website is [www.eauk.org](http://www.eauk.org) and scroll down to Walk, Pray Talk.

**Thursday 17 September** – (NSB799) We are called to pray for our Army in the Angola Command. They ask for our prayers for: families suffering from hunger because parents and others have lost their jobs, and they can't sell in the market place because of lockdown. Pray for the re-starting of meetings, especially in Luanda where the Army has a large presence; and lastly, they ask for our prayers for Divisions and Corps that don't have income, but still have bills to pay. (We can identify many of these prayer points as being appropriate in the UK, too.) (THQ)

**Friday 18 September** – (NSB850 tune 'Finlandia') (Read 1 Peter 1:15) *'It is written: Be holy, because I am holy'*. Holiness needs to be at the centre of all that we do today and every day. *Loving God, keep me in the centre of Your will as I try to live a life of holiness. Amen.* (THQ)

**Saturday 19 September** – (NSB804) Heavenly Father, we intercede for the millions of people worldwide who have been forced into slavery, suffering physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Nothing is hidden from You and we entreat You to bring justice to both the victims and perpetrators of this evil trade. Amen. (CARE)

**Sunday 20 September** – (NSB825) Jesus says that forgiveness comes in response to faith. Our mission can sometimes stop at physical demonstrations of the gospel, without also leading to inner transformation. *Father God, raise my faith today to see people turn in repentance and seek your forgiveness. Amen.*



# Bring Me SUNSHINE!

## **It's the Thought That Counts**

Choosing a gift for an elderly mother...

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The eldest son said, 'I built a big house for our mother'. The second son said, 'I sent her a Mercedes with a driver'. The youngest son smiled and said, 'I've got you both beat. You remember how Mama enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the Church twelve years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.'

Soon thereafter, Mama sent out her letters of thanks:

'David', she wrote her eldest son, 'The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house'.

'John', she wrote to her second son, 'I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!'

'Dearest Jeffrey', she wrote to her youngest son, 'You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious'.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Church Lady**

There was a little old lady who was very spiritual and every day she would step out on her porch, raise her arms to the sky and yell, 'Praise the Lord'.

One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling 'Praise the Lord' from her porch, he started to go outside on his porch and yelled back 'There is no Lord'. But the little old lady continued.

One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her hands up to the sky and said, 'Help me Lord. I have no more money, it is cold, and I have no more food'.

The next morning, she went outside, and there were bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. 'Praise the Lord', she yelled.

The atheist stepped out from the bushes and said, 'See I told you there is no Lord. I bought those groceries!'

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, 'Praise the Lord. You sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them!'

# Worship and Word



**Sunday 13 September 2020**

This act of worship has been prepared for use at home and follows the service posted on the Boscombe Salvation Army YouTube channel and corps website. Spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Welcome**

Major David Alton

**Bible reading:** Acts 27:1-12

Major Jane Alton

**Song 450:** Will your anchor hold?

WILL your anchor hold in the storms of life,  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the storm tides lift and the cables strain,  
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;  
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,  
When the breakers roar and the reef is near?  
While the surges rave and the wild winds blow,  
Shall the angry waves your bark o'erflow?

Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,  
When the waters' cold chill your latest breath?  
On the rising tide you can never fail  
While your anchor holds within the veil.

Will your eyes behold through the morning light  
The city of gold and the harbour bright?  
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,  
When life's storms are past forevermore?

*Priscilla Jane Owens*

**Prayers**

Major Jane Alton

**Bible reading:** Acts 27:13-26

Stephen Starkes

## **Farewell to Gerald and Susan Turner**

### **Farewell message and song choice from Gerald Turner**

#### **Song 58:** Sowing in the morning

Sowing in the morning,  
Sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eves;  
Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

*Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,  
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze,  
By and by the harvest and the labour ended,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Go then, though with weeping,  
Sowing for the Master,  
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;  
When our labour's over, He will bid us welcome;  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

*Knowles Shaw*

## **Farewell message from Susan Turner**

**Trombone Solo:** It is well with my soul

Isobel Daws

**Bible reading:** Acts 27:27-44

Vidiya Neal

**Freewill offering:** And is it so

Featuring music by Katie Harding and Howard Evans (Summer Suns CD)

**Message**

Major David Alton

### **“Anchors in the Storm”**

It is said that Admiral Horatio Nelson, Britain's greatest maritime hero, suffered from seasickness. I can't blame him, I felt queasy on the boat to Shetland and

Orkney too, but was fine on the Swanage ferry. No reference is made to Paul turning green or having his head over the side. Acts 27 is a seafaring adventure and much more Captain Horatio Hornblower than Cruising with Jane McDonald.

Paul had endured 2 years of house arrest with trials before Felix, Festus & Agrippa. Roman citizen Paul wants to make an appeal to Cesar. Acts 26:32 reminds us what making that appeal will cost him:

*<sup>32</sup>Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."*

But Paul trusts the promise God gave him in Acts 23:11

*"Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome." Acts 23:11*

Paul and other prisoners board ship at Adramyttium, under the charge of Julius a centurion. It was common for Roman soldiers to accompany prisoners & merchant ships going to Rome.

Interestingly, Julius lets Paul go ashore to his friends and receive care. Paul wasn't a condemned man yet, but was waiting for trial before Caesar. Julius would have been executed had Paul not returned from his trip ashore. Going back to last Sunday's sermon, maybe Paul's godly character and display of Christian love made an impact on Julius.

At this point our story starts to sound like the Radio 4 shipping forecast, you know, "Dogger, German Bight, South Utsire & Fisher". They put out to sea but *"the winds were contrary"*. Already, we get the feeling that it's not going to be an easy journey.

At Myra they board a cargo ship taking Egyptian grain to Italy. It had one mast, a big square sail and was steered by two rear paddles. It's a sturdy ship but it can't sail into the wind & wasn't easily controlled in difficult situations, like the one to come. V4 - *wind against us* - V7 *slow headway and difficulty off Cnidus* - V8 *with difficulty*.

They came to Fair Havens, not the kind of place that could entertain sailors for any period of time. Vs 9 tells us *"Much time had been lost and sailing had already become dangerous"* It's around the Day of Atonement, early October, middle of the dangerous sailing season.

Paul, an experienced Mediterranean traveller of 3,500 sea miles, who'd been shipwrecked 3 times, advises

<sup>10</sup> *“Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.”*

But Julius is more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship who had much to lose if the ship didn't make it to Rome. The majority advised to set sail to reach Phoenix *and* winter *there*. Verse 13 suggests things were going to be OK.

<sup>13</sup> *When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete.*

They should have listened to Paul, because they are hit by the Euroclydon, a wind feared by ancient sailors for its destructive power. It says

*“The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along”*

Did you catch that? *“so we gave way to it and were driven along”* The last six months have had something of that feeling about them, haven't they? There have been many changes during these months. People say "I love change" they mean I love change when I'm the one doing the changing. We are used to things being a certain way but the storm changes this and we must be ready for it bringing something different, or even something better.

Jeremiah 48:11 says

*“Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another-- she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged”*

We all get a bit 'Moaby', so to speak - like dregs in the bottom of the bottle, apparently wine has to be agitated. Ultimately, being shaken isn't always a bad thing.

Remember what I said about the nature of the ship, it wasn't easily controlled, so now they are tempest-tossed and at the mercy of the wind and waves. They bring the lifeboat aboard; they pass ropes under the boat to hold it together. They lower an anchor fearing running aground on the Syrtis *Sands*.

Eventually they have to lighten the ship. V18 says they threw the cargo of grain overboard and V19 says the ship's tackle went overboard. They wouldn't get paid if they didn't deliver the grain but in the storm they threw overboard. Storms change values. Grain wasn't important and the pay-check didn't matter. Priorities become different and clearer. Storms will do that, value system changes. Maybe our current storm is doing that for us?

Yusuf İsmail the 'Terrible Turk' wrestled in the 1890s. After beating US champion "Strangler" Lewis he took the SS La Bourgogne back to Europe. He was one of the 600 passengers who drowned when the ship sank on the 4 July 1898. He was dragged underwater by the weight of his money belt, containing \$10,000 in gold. Had he let it go he would have been saved. He perished because his priorities didn't change in the storm.

Paul and his shipmates can't see the stars or sun to navigate. They can't see a way forward. Luke tells us in verse 20

*"we finally gave up all hope of being saved".*

Paul stands up and says

*"Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss"*

Initially that sounds a little "I told you so" but he's actually trying to encourage them, he goes on:

*<sup>22</sup> But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup> Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me told me. <sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."*

Anchors were used in an attempt to save the situation. But Paul throws down three anchors from that vision from God, anchors for us all as we face storms.

**Paul's first anchor** is in verse 23 where he says:

*"the God to whom I belong".*

Paul knows that he belongs to God. God has ownership of him and he is God's and God will not abandon him. I belong to God - I'm God's property and therefore his responsibility. God's got me, Christ redeemed me, and my future is certain come what may, he delivers on his promises.

**The second of Paul's anchors** follows on from the first: *"the God to whom I belong and whom I serve"*

Service - I'm God's servant on this boat; I have a purpose and a mission from God the Father and Jesus the Son. Last week we heard what Paul said in front of Felix "I admit that I am a follower of The Way" He was a servant and missional follower of the Way, of Jesus. God never forgets those who belong to Him and serve Him.

That doesn't mean everything goes easy, Paul's situation proved that. But it does mean that God's watchful eye and active care is present even then. Paul knew God had promised that he would get to Rome. Included in that promise is the fact that all with him will be included.

**There's the third anchor** in V25 *"I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me"*

Paul had trust and faith in God that he had the big picture, the end game, the resolution in hand. Paul couldn't keep his faith in God, his trust in God, his hope in God to himself. He had to pass it on to both the believers on board the ship and to those who had not yet believed.

John Wesley travelled from Great Britain to Savannah Georgia USA. Whilst in the midst of a similar storm to one Paul was experiencing Wesley saw the faith of some Moravian Christians. Their faith and trust were a great example to and influence upon Wesley. This influence and example would be of huge significance in Wesley's ministry and his founding of the Methodist movement.

Abraham Lincoln, a principled American President, I say no more, was fearful about many things as Civil War divided his country. His well-worn Bible opened easily to Psalm 34 where a finger smudge could be found at v4:

*"I sought the Lord and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears"*  
(Psalm 34:4).

Lincoln knew what it was to look to the Lord in the face of the storm, for him a civil war or for us it might be the continuing uncertainties & challenges of pandemic and lockdown or other more personal circumstances.

Paul's confident word to the troubled sailors on a storm-tossed ship express the essence of what it means to put our faith in God. Paul believed God when there was nothing else to believe. He couldn't believe the sailors, the ship, the sails, the wind, the centurion, human ingenuity or anything else – only God. He believed God in the midst of the storm. The storm and the danger were real, but God was more real to Paul than the circumstances.

Paul, even as a man of faith, anchored in God was a realist and didn't deny the challenges to come. He says to the crew and passengers:

*<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."*

It wasn't going to be easy, there are going to be post storm challenges - shipwreck on an unknown island but even so says Paul, God's got this.

Vs 27 to 44 record how the situation develops and we will return to it as we consider the final chapter of Acts next week

Paul's whole life has been a storm. He knew the risen Jesus, preached his death and resurrection, taught, healed and dared in his name. He followed the will of God but things never went simply. Paul shows us how to deal with storms. He didn't envisage problems, storms or shipwreck, yet they came his way. The question for this morning is how do we react to and deal with the problems, storms and shipwrecks in our lives?

A shipwreck in life does not necessarily need to lead to a shipwrecked faith. Rather than rob us of faith a storm or shipwreck can actually strengthen our faith as we cast down the anchors of belonging to God, serving God and trust in God.

**Reflection:** Song 11 Eternal Father

Naval Academy Glee Club – USA

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

**Song 892:** Simply trusting every day

Simply trusting every day,  
Trusting through a stormy way,  
Even when my faith is small,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting as the moments fly,  
Trusting as the days go by,  
Trusting Him whate'er befall,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Brightly doth His Spirit shine  
Into this poor heart of mine;  
While He leads I need not fall,  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.  
Singing, if my way be clear,  
Praying, if the path be drear,  
If in danger, for Him call;  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Trusting Him while life shall last,  
Trusting Him till earth be past,  
Till within the jasper wall;  
Trusting Jesus, that is all.

*Edgar Page Stites*

**Benediction**

Major David Alton

**Exit Music:** South Coast

Boscombe Band

**Church Copyright Licence** D 232334 4/30/2021

+ Streaming Licence C 90227 4/30/2021

**Music Reproduction Licence** D 232334 4/30/2021

**Church Video Licence** D 1061528 4/30/2021

**PPL Church License** D 1672223 4/30/2021

**Copyright Licensing Agency Church Licence** D 1389781 4/30/2021

**PRS for Music Church License** D 1061511 4/30/2021