

**The Salvation Army**  
**B**  **SCOMBE**  
Palmerston Road  
[www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk)

**Sunday 25 July 2021**

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

**But you have  
no bucket?**



**John 4:4-30**

**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 Major Joyce Holmes who is recovering following a knee replacement on Thursday, for Millie Otter who is far from well at the moment and for Malcolm White who was admitted to Poole Hospital on Wednesday.
- 🌸 Please continue to pray for Major Maureen Hunt (see below) and for Derek Kittle who is in the Christchurch MacMillan Unit.
- 🌸 Please pray for any you know who are facing difficult circumstances of any kind.

## Words of Thanks

Major Maureen Hunt would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages and prayers. She feels really loved by Boscombe Corps. Unfortunately, she is not able to cope with visitors anymore but really appreciates everyone's love and concern.

## Promotion to Glory

It is our sad duty to inform you of the Promotion to Glory of Major Gloria Roberts on Tuesday 20 July after a really difficult time over the past three months but thankfully is now at peace with her Lord. Please pray for her sister, Muriel Peacock and the rest of the family at this time of bereavement.



## Songs of Praise

Boscombe Senior Band will be taking part at the Churches Together *Songs of Praise* @ Keyhaven Jetty this afternoon (Sunday 25 July). It starts at 5.30pm. Please wear a mask and bring a chair!

## Letters

A letter from Majors David and Jane regarding our plans for reopening have been sent out either by email or through the post this week. If you have not received a copy of this letter and would like one, please contact the Corps office.

### Volunteers Needed

The BH1 Project is looking for volunteers to help specifically on a Sunday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. If you are able to help in anyway, even as part of a rota, please contact Annette Watts on 07837 363712

### Walk a Mile and get FREE Coffee and Cake

Do you enjoy walking and meeting new people? Well why not join with others on a series of walks organised by BCP Council. Each walk starts at the entrance to the Woodlands Walk, near to Corpus Christi Church on Christchurch Road in Boscombe and will generally be around a mile long (with some changes in the route and distance based on the abilities of those walking on the day). They will be delivered by a team of trained walk leaders on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 10am and will finish at Rosebery Park Baptist Church for cake and coffee.

The first walk is on Tuesday 3 August. For more information visit [www.dorsetrec.org.uk/boscombe-wellbeing-walks](http://www.dorsetrec.org.uk/boscombe-wellbeing-walks) or pick up a leaflet in the foyer.

### Funeral Details for Vi Kittle

The funeral service is to be held on Tuesday 3 August commencing at 2pm at The East Chapel, Bournemouth Crematorium and is being conducted by Majors David and Jane. Please pray for Derek, Avril, Denise and the rest of the family at this time of bereavement.

## **PRAYER MATTERS**

**Monday 26 July** – (NSB330) We are SO happy to welcome our ‘fellow’ Prayer Warriors of Pokesdown Corps to join us in our Prayer Matters each week. **Welcome!** May God bless and unite us and use us as we pray together.

**Tuesday 27 July** – (NSB797) **It’s summer!!** and THQ invite us to pray this beautiful prayer... *‘May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means... Walking with honesty and with courage, Walking with love and respect and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer and every day, and in every situation. Talking with God means... praying words of praise for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times; asking God’s help in all your decisions, and expressing*

*sorrow when you have failed. May you talk with God every day. Amen.*  
(THQ)

**Wednesday 28 July** – (NSB925) School's out!! Pray for our young people as the school year ends. Pray for God's protection for them in these weeks especially, and for wisdom to discern and choose the things 'of good report' with which to fill their hours. (IN)

**Thursday 29 July** – (NSB300) 'A Spirit-controlled mind' (Romans 8:6 NIV says 'The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace') The Holy Spirit is the non-anxious presence of God working in our life. We either give our mind over to the control of external influences and circumstances, or we give it over to the control of the Holy Spirit. Imagine... not being so fearful anymore, not giving in to discouragement... but with God as our Partner, imagine people coming to us when they're upset or discouraged because our peace of mind is contagious. That's part of what God calls us to do every day. So, when we bump into people who are stressed and transmitting their stress to others, we are to be peace disseminators. Jesus carried peace with Him wherever He went. Even the waves obeyed Him (Mark 4:39) Our peace comes from knowing Jesus is 'on our boat' and with Him on board NO storm can take us under. (UCB)

**Friday 30 July** – (NSB1001) *Dear Lord, in such a time as this... we pray for an increasingly effective Christian presence and influence amongst those who hold political sway; for integrity and selflessness in those who would govern us.* (CARE)

**Saturday 31 July** – (NSB793) Give thanks for the collective commitment our Retired Officers bring to both our Corps Fellowships. Name before the Lord those who are unable to attend because of illness just now. Ask God to flood their lives with His Peace, to still their anxieties and ease their pain, and give them a constant awareness of His Presence.

**Sunday 1 August** – (NSB1005) How often does God prompt us to take action to meet the needs of others and we let the opportunity go? How many times does the Spirit nudge us to say or do something in Jesus' Name and we shake off the nudging? Let's honour the Lord by responding with action. Stay involved in our Church where we can worship and fellowship with others and serve Him. Let's seize each opportunity God gives us to serve others in His Name. (ODB)

*'To serve God is the deliberate love-gift of a nature that has heard the call of God.'* (Oswald Chambers)

# Worship and Word

Sunday 25 July 2021



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 Jane Alton

**Song 535 SASB:** Glorious things of thee are spoken

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken  
Formed thee for his own abode.  
On the rock of ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou mayest smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove;  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage;  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age?

Saviour, if of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in thy name.  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

*John Newton*

**Prayers led by Norma Lingley**

**Musical Item:** Let the Beauty of Jesus      Canada & Bermuda Gospel Arts

**Bible Reading:** John 4:1-29

**Song 447 SASB:** Who comes to me, the Saviour said

Who comes to me, the Saviour said,  
    To him I freely give  
    Eternal life; though he were dead  
    Yet henceforth shall he live.  
His life shall be with gladness filled,  
    His treasure is on high,  
Bright sunshine shall his pathway gild  
    And he shall never die.

*The Saviour now will give,  
The Saviour now will give,  
Eternal life to all who seek,  
The Saviour now will give.*

Who comes to me, the Saviour said,  
    That soul will I supply  
    With portions of that living bread  
    Which riches cannot buy.  
That soul shall never hunger more,  
    But filled shall ever be  
With plenty from the unfailing store  
    He ever finds in me.

Who comes to me, the Saviour said,  
    Shall constantly partake  
The stream that from the fountain-head  
    Alone his thirst can slake.  
Who seeks in faith that fountain pure,  
    His freshness shall retain,  
Shall peace and happiness ensure  
    And never thirst again.

Who comes to me, the Saviour said,  
And follows where I lead,  
Shall see my light upon him shed  
And in my pastures feed.  
No more shall darkness cloud his way,  
My love his fear shall quell,  
The gloom that once obscured his day  
My presence shall dispel.

*William Kitching*

## **Freewill Offering**

**Video:** The Salvation Army Living Water Project

**Musical Item:** The Living Waters

Mike and Jenny Clark

**Song 430 SASB:** The well is deep

Life is a journey; long is the road,  
And when the noontide is high  
Souls that are weary faint 'neath their load,  
Long for the waters, and cry:

*The well is deep and I require  
A draught of the water of life,  
But none can quench my soul's desire  
For a draught of the water of life;  
Till one draws near who the cry will heed,  
Helper of men in their time of need,  
And I, believing, find indeed  
That Christ is the water of life.*

Life is a seeking, life is a quest,  
Eager and longing desire;  
Unto the true things, unto the best,  
Godward our spirits aspire.

Life is a finding; vain wanderings cease  
When from the Saviour we claim  
All we have longed for, solace and peace,  
And we have life in his name.

*Albert Orsborn*

## Bible Message:

Major David Alton

I don't tend to read a daily newspaper with the same regularity as I once did, especially after The Independent went entirely online with a subscription fee.

Newspapers can still be identified by their editorial perspectives, their columnists, crossword compilers or cartoons – Fred Bassett in The Daily Mail, Andy Capp in The Daily Mirror and Rupert Bear in the Daily Express.

My childhood favourite was in the Sunday Post. The cartoon character was a tousle haired cheeky chappie full of plans and adventures - long before Boris Johnson was around. The character in question is 'Oor Wullie', who at the end of each cartoon sits on his metal bucket waving farewell.



Today we heard and saw a dramatic recounting of the John 4:1-29, Jesus meeting with the Samaritan Woman at the well, a woman with a bucket – OK so it doesn't mention a bucket, but humour me anyway.

It's a passage that speaks of the journey of faith made by followers of Jesus, it speaks about how we ask questions, the sort of questions we ask and how a relationship with Christ might begin. The passage also tells us something of Jesus' priorities and the priorities we should have as we live out the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is going north from Jerusalem, towards Nazareth. To get there he travels through the Samaria. Samaritans were the dreaded enemy of the Jews. He meets a woman at a well, most probably a large underground stone-lined water storage cistern.

The encounter is full of confusions and awkwardness. First, Jesus approaches this woman. Jewish men, especially religious teachers did not initiate conversations with women, and especially not Samaritans.

So, from the off, the whole conversation is inappropriate; you've got the crossing of the boundaries of what's acceptable. The woman acknowledges that – "What are you doing, why are you talking to me?"

Jesus tells her about himself, using the phrase “living water”; living water as opposed to stagnant, still, dead water which likely filled the cisterns in the desert.

Jesus makes a spiritual claim and point. He speaks of water which brings life, which is not physical water, but the spiritual gift of God to nourish and cleanse and revive.

Unsurprisingly the woman interprets Jesus as talking about actual, running water. Her response is pragmatic and blunt: **‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep’.**

If we want to take this encounter between Jesus and the woman as a pattern, as a way of thinking about the way in which we slowly approach and explore the things of faith, isn’t this a usual starting point, to actually focus on the practicalities, rather than the spiritualities? **‘You haven’t got a bucket!’**



When faced with Jesus and the Christian faith people ask the big practical questions – ‘What about evolution? ‘What about suffering and bad things happening to good people?’, or ‘Poor behaviour of supposed believers?’

The woman at the well doggedly refuses to let Jesus, whom at this point she thinks is simply a Jewish rabbi, whom she shouldn’t really be talking to, win the argument. So she takes a different tack “What, are you better than Jacob? Are you more important than him?”

Of course, Jesus is greater than Jacob, but she doesn’t know this yet. As the story goes on, we see her slowly, begin to recognise that there is something in this man which is different.

It’s a gradual dawning, putting it together, processing all of what’s going on. Some folk recognise Jesus in an instant of absolute clarity. They hear a speaker or read the Bible and just get it instantly – who Jesus is, why he came, why I need him and that I need to make a response to him.

Some people get it instantly, but most of us don’t. Most move slowly into a relationship of faith with Christ, this story as an example of that.

The woman began by misunderstanding the subject and parameters of the conversation. Maybe she knowingly or unknowingly complicates matters – **‘Where’s your bucket?’**

The conversation then goes to husbands, and where to worship. You can see, eventually, that there's a realisation that they are talking about deep spiritual eternal stuff.

The woman begins to recognise something genuinely extraordinary about this Jewish travelling rabbi. Her entire reading of the situation changes. There's a shift from running water to living water.

Finally the conversation arrives at a place where Christ can say to her – “I am the Messiah, the one who is speaking to you.” In an instant, she gets it. What a surprising visit to the well for this woman. But that wasn't the only surprise that we discover at Jacob's well in Samaria. There is a bucket list from that day.



You know about bucket lists? They are those lists of things that you want to do, things that inspire and energise you. Here is some stuff from that encounter at the well to inspire & energise us as followers of Jesus:

- Jesus will do whatever is necessary to break through the barriers of religious, racial, and gender prejudices to bring grace and love to the heart of anyone seeking God.
- The people who appear least likely to be spiritual seekers can actually be thirsty for God and searching for the Father's truth.
- The deepest conversations about life's hurts, social yearnings, and spiritual thirst can begin with the simplest of questions when you listen to and care for the people God places in your path.

The most beautiful moment, that completes this story of journey and recognition, is when the woman runs off to tell the whole village – leaving her

bucket behind! “Where is your bucket?” “I left it on the floor, because I wanted to tell people about Jesus!”



The woman’s final words are “he cannot be the Messiah, can he?” She’s exploring and questioning, but there is a tentative faith following encounter with Jesus. It’s a very human story for that.

We encounter God not in a carefully choreographed set of circumstances where the moments of our conversion follow neatly one from the other. We encounter God in the middle of our lives.

We encounter him when we are busy and distracted and trying to work out how to get water out of a hole we don’t have a bucket for, trying to navigate ourselves through an increasingly complicated and concerning world for which we don’t always feel equipped.

Into all this walks Jesus and we don’t recognise him at first. In fact we might rather resent his presence. “If you haven’t brought a bucket with you, why are you bothering me? I’m busy!”

Then almost without knowing how it happens, as Jesus initiates a conversation in our lives, as we are led gently to consider that living water might matter, might offer us something that we almost didn’t know we needed, or wanted, or cared about. Slowly we realise that Jesus is the refreshing, reviving, endlessly flowing, sparkling water of life.



This week a hot weather warning came from the Met Office, alerting us to the importance of staying hydrated. This is physically imperative but is also spiritually imperative

Jesus, the water of life brings deep, spiritual refreshment to the souls of those who truly seek, sustaining, enriching and empowering the lives he has given us.

I hope you see from his actions at the well that Jesus longs to include all people in his family of grace and that he wants us to be open to all those who are seeking, even the apparently least likely people in the most unlikely situations. Remember, he reveals himself in the ordinary events of life for those who are truly seeking him!

Like the woman, we rise up to a new life, sometimes uncertain, still occasionally tentative, but captivated, and ready to engage, ask questions, to be explorers.

We rise up, we stand, and walk, and run...our own rather battered bucket, for the moment at least, entirely forgotten as we brim over with the living water of Christ, who hydrates, our weary souls, who meets our deepest thirst and flows through our lives.

**Reflection Song 386 SASB:** Open our eyes, Lord

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

*Robert Cull*

**Song 888 SASB:** Once I was far in sin

Once I was far in sin,  
But Jesus took me in,  
Down where the living waters flow;  
'Twas there he gave me sight  
And let me see the light,  
Down where the living waters flow.

*Down where the living waters flow,  
Down where the tree of life does grow;  
I'm living in the light,  
For Jesus now I fight,  
Down where the living waters flow.*

With Jesus at my side  
I need no other guide,  
Down where the living waters flow;  
He is my hope and stay,  
He saves me every day,  
Down where the living waters flow.

When fighting here is o'er,  
I'll rest for evermore,  
Down where the living waters flow;  
I'll join the blood-washed throng  
And sing the angels' song,  
Down where the living waters flow.

*James Conner Bateman (verses)*

*Russell Kelso Carter (chorus)*

**Benediction**

Major David Alton

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