

Dear God, I pray that you will bless me and my church. Send people into our fellowship,
and protect us all. In Jesus' name. Amen

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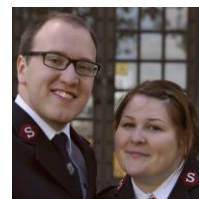


Sunday 12 February 2017

TRUE (Part One)

'TRUE: Shepherd'

John 10:1-15



Good morning & welcome to worship.

Following the recent Presidential Inauguration in the United States there was some debate regarding the number of people who were in attendance. At one end of the Spectrum, reporters were claiming that it was the lowest attended inauguration in recent history. At the other end, commentators were claiming that it was a record-breaking attendance. One comment that stood out for me in the debate came from The White House's Press Secretary who in response to a photograph showing depleted crowds present said, 'Sometimes we can disagree with the facts.'

Sometimes, we can disagree with the facts. Apparently, the Oxford Dictionary word for 2016 is 'post-truth.' It captures something of the current landscape of the day where claims of truth and fact are regarded with skepticism and things might not be as 'true' as they once seemed; what's true for one person isn't true for everyone. If this is the way that contemporary culture thinks, then this raises huge questions about the nature of the Gospel and how we present it. Can anything be considered true anymore?

John's Gospel speaks into our present landscape, by offering insight into what the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus means for our world. John even asserts that Jesus is the truth! Time and time again in his Gospel, John explains and demonstrates in different ways and using different images the nature of just how 'true' Jesus is and over the next few weeks we're going to be considering some of the different 'trues' from John's Gospel.

This week we start with 'True Shepherd'. In a world of Shepherds which might lead astray, shepherds which might run away when the going gets tough and Shepherds which lack skill and compassion, John tells us that Jesus is the true shepherd, the one who we can follow with certainty and the one who is completely dedicated to his flock.

The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want!

God bless

Callum

Prayer Requests Please...

Please remember those of our corps family who are unwell, Milly; Ted & Heather; Roy and Patricia; Warren; Jan; Audrey; Fred & Beryl Cripps.



The gift of flowers greatly enhances our worship environment. There is a new Flower List on the notice board, please help if you can.

This week

Half Term Break so no Toddlers, Rehearsals or Youth Group... **but there is still CAMEO on Wednesday!**

Coming events

SAVE THE DATE!! "Welcome Wednesday" It's been great to have so many people link up with our Church fellowship over the past twelve months. On **Wednesday 22nd February at 7:30pm**, anybody who has started to link up the past twelve months (or indeed anyone who still feels a bit "new"!) is invited to Berri and Callum's house for an informal get-together with nibbles and an opportunity to meet others and get some more information about the life of the Church. More details to follow.

SATURDAY MARCH 11th 7pm - concert by the South East Fellowship Band (Richard is their bandmaster). Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of our young people's visit to Kenya. Please do come and support if you can.

Exploring Leadership Day - Sunday 12 March

This is a free event offered to those aged 13+ who are interested in discovering more about spiritual leadership, particularly within the context of The Salvation Army. The event is held at the William Booth College, Denmark Hill London. Commissioners Brian and Rosalie Peddle will be the special guests for this day.

You can find more details about the event and how to register by following the link below (or by speaking to Berri or Callum!)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/exploring-leadership-day-tickets-27706076621>

Sunday 19th March - 'Youth Councils'- This is a great opportunity for all in secondary school to gather with other young people from The Salvation Army across the South East for a day of worship and fellowship. The venue is Highstead Grammar School, Sittingbourne. Anyone interested should sign up with Callum or Berri ASAP.

Lent Connect Groups - After a bit of break, we're looking at restarting connect groups to coincide with Lent! The plan is to have two, maybe three groups, meeting at different times and days in different places, but working through the same material. It's a great opportunity to connect with God, and other people in the Church and to think together about some of the big themes of Lent.

Rather than plan groups and hope that the days and time suits people, we're asking anybody who is interested to speak to Callum ASAP to say when and where would work for them. So far, we have a group of six interested on meeting in Hythe on a Monday morning- so that's one group set up! What'll be the next?!

Saturday 6th May- "Women of Design" Divisional Ladies Retreat Day at Tudor Marriot Hotel, Maidstone. The day begins with Breakfast and will also include Lunch, Afternoon Tea and an Evening meal as well as use of all the facilities and will also include Worship, Teaching, Workshops and Discussions. Organised by the South East Division. More info from Callum or Berri

Save The Date- Divisional Creative Arts Day.

Saturday 20th May at Maidstone Salvation Army 10am – 6pm; cost £20. A day for exploring how the creative arts (traditional and not-so-traditional!) can be used to engage a local community – Drama – Creative Writing – Art – Dance – Photography – Music – Cookery.

To register and for more information – ira.thomas@salvationarmy.org.uk or telephone 01622 236053

MAY 27/28 – VISIT OF THE AUS TERRITORIAL YOUTH BAND & Silvie Paladino tickets £9 adult or £3 children - 01303 223925 before 2pm.

The band is made up of excellent musicians, young people, from all over Australia, with an average age of 24. They will be accompanied by Silvie Paladino an award winning West End star. Silvie is a Salvationist with a tremendous testimony. For those of you on the internet if you type her name in YouTube there are a number of videos to watch and listen to – she is sensational.