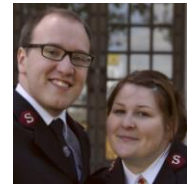


Dear God, I pray that you will bless me and my church. Send people into our fellowship,  
and protect us all. In Jesus' name. Amen

**THE SALVATION ARMY CORPS & CHURCH, HYTHE** Officers/Pastors - Lt's Callum & Berri McKenna  
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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**'It's on the Way! Hope and Peace'**  
**(Shepherds)**  
**Luke 2:1-20**



### **Good morning & welcome to worship...**

Henry has his own advent calendar. Each day he opens (or rather, we open!) a window containing a small wooden figurine which, by the time the 24<sup>th</sup> December comes, will all come together to make a nativity scene. Seeing each piece come out, one by one, has really been helping me to take in the nativity story afresh this year and to chew over it slowly. Perhaps the most profound moment was when Henry crawled into the kitchen with Mary in his mouth and then proceeded to put her in the bin!

There is a sense in which each year we're just unwrapping the same story and that we tell it so often, and so quickly, that we become desensitised to the drama and we normalise the narrative. Today, we're looking at a very familiar part of the 'same-old-story': the Shepherds as told by Luke. As we do, I challenge you not to jump in your mind straightaway to tea-towels and dressing gowns (hint: primary school nativity!) but to instead consider the enormity of what St. Luke is trying to relay to us: enduring hope, relentless peace and the real King of the universe born to affirm our place in the universal family.

God bless you  
Callum



The gift of flowers greatly enhances our worship environment. Today we thank **Anne & Richard**

**Prayers:**The Funeral of Sylvia Mills will take place on Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in out hall, followed by a committal at Hawkinge and refreshments at Hotel Imperial. Please remember Peter, Andrew, Caroline and the family in your prayers at this very difficult time.

**Today:** We have our 'Messy Nativity' at 3:00pm and are expecting to be around 90 people in total, many of whom have never been in our building before- Please pray for this.

**Cate and Randy** have an open house this afternoon to which all are invited. 3-8pm, 1a Old Dover Road, Capel-le-ferne.

### **This week:**

**Monday:** Toddler Christmas Party

'Wrapping Party' for Toy Parcels 1pm (**Volunteers Needed**)

**Band at Appledore** – If you would like to come on the coach please give your name to Alyson after the meeting. Leaving at 6:30pm

**Tuesday:** Toddler Christmas Party

**Toy Parcel** Distribution (PM)

'Carols at the Castle' (Lympne) at 7:30pm- Arrive early!

**Wednesday:** CAMEO Christmas Party

**7:30pm- Carols at Littlestone** Lifeboat Station (Organised by Ashford SA, but some of our corps are supporting)

**Friday:** 1:00pm- Hall Clean and Set up for Christmas Day (**Volunteers Needed!**)

**Saturday:** Band playing in the High Street- starting at Red Lion Square (**Collectors Needed**)

**Sunday:** 10am Family Worship (9 Lessons and Carols)

Afternoon- Band Playing at Hotel Imperial.

**25<sup>th</sup> Decemeber – Christmas Day** Worship at 11am followed by a meal and festivities for those who would appreciate some company on Christmas Day.