

# FOCUS



**SANDES Soldiers' & Airmen's Centres**

January to March 2021



Inside this issue of FOCUS:  
- New Year resolutions?  
- What's been happening in the Centres

Every January, millions of people begin their year with New Year's resolutions. Losing weight, getting organized, exercising more, eating healthier, and managing finances better are some of the most common resolutions. But what about making spiritual New Year's resolutions?

We make commitments and tell our friends and family on January 1st, only to give it all up by January 3rd. But as humans, our struggle for consistency goes way beyond resolutions. Making commitments we can't keep runs all through society, back to Biblical times. In the Bible, James spoke of some people who can teach us a valuable lesson about great intentions that are not aligned with God's will:

*"Listen carefully, those of you who make your plans and say, "We are travelling to this city in the next few days. We'll stay there for one year while our business explodes and revenue is up." The reality is you have no idea where your life will take you tomorrow. You are like a mist that appears one moment and then vanishes another. It would be best to say, "If it is the Lord's will and we live long enough, we hope to do this project or pursue that dream." But your current speech indicates an arrogance that does not acknowledge the One who controls the universe, and this kind of big talking is the epitome of evil. So if you know the right way to live*

*and ignore it, it is sin—plain and simple." — James 4:13-17 (The Voice)*

Our plans may or may not be God's plans. If we want to be successful with any New Year's resolution, we must seek God's will. By his strength we might lose weight, eat better, or become better stewards of our finances. What does God want for our lives? When He convicts, He also equips us to follow through with the plan. When we know we are following God's plan, then we have more strength to stick to it, allowing Him to work well beyond our normal January 3rd quitting date.

*"For this reason, my brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the return of the Lord. Look! The farmer knows how to wait patiently for the land to produce vegetables and fruits. He cannot harvest a freshly planted seed. Instead, he waits for the early and the late showers to nourish the soil. You need this same kind of patience, so in the meantime, strengthen your resolve because the Lord will be coming soon." — James 5:7-8 (The Voice)*

The farmer waits patiently for the Lord to bring the growth, but it doesn't mean he sits on his porch doing nothing. The farmer works hard, watering and weeding, repairing equipment, and

completing all of the daily chores. When a farmer does what a farmer is supposed to do, God is able to do the things that only He can do. It's not easy being patient.

Would the Lord be honored if our bodies (the temple of the Holy Spirit) were in better shape? Would He be blessed if our financial affairs were in order? Is it possible that He would use us mightily if we serve in a ministry, or shared our faith? The answer to each of these questions is the same. Certainly the Lord can be in these things. However, committing to lose weight does not mean sitting on the couch with a bag of chips watching the Biggest Loser. Like the farmer, we must do what we need to do, so that God can do what only he can do to produce results in our lives.

But, why is it that we only make resolutions about weight, exercise, and money?

**God would be honoured if we made spiritual resolutions.** Read the Bible, get involved in ministry at church, share our faith with friends, make a step of faith that is so big that only God can make it happen. Resolve to represent Him no matter what the cost.

Let's resolve to give our attitudes to the Lord. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the marketplace, on the roads, and even at church.

Thomas Fuller, a well-known preacher from England, understood

how to be successful in our resolve. In the mid 1600's Fuller made this statement:

**Seek Him and His wonderful plan for your life.** The two of you will make a great team—united in your determination to fulfil your destiny. A strong will, a settled purpose, an invincible determination can accomplish almost anything. — Thomas Fuller

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* — Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

Life is not always easy. Following through on simple commitments can even be difficult when bombarded by every day affairs. In addition, the attacks of the evil one will challenge us at every turn. Because of this, we offer this prayer on your behalf.

*"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* — Acts 20:32 (NIV)

What spiritual New Year's resolutions will you make this year?

**"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."** Joshua 1:9

# FOCUS

on

## Aldershot



2020 – what a year!

Attempting to open a new Centre within the Covid regulations certainly is a novel way to commence a ministry! Hopefully as the New Year progresses we will see the Sandes Community Cafe begin to find its feet. We are passing through a time when much is being shaken and we are all having to consider life in new ways – this is also true for the Sandes in Aldershot...

Without a doubt this is a bold new venture for Sandes, the first outside of the wire for a long time, with a focus on Army families. We are enjoying the challenge and it is a privilege to head up this work. Our desire is to create a warm welcoming space where those who live a long way from family can come and be a part of a new local family community.

One of the ways that the Lord Jesus made himself known was in the breaking of bread, we remain of the conviction that as we share a coffee, a cake, a snack together with our visitors – the Lord Jesus is made known. We understand that for many who come into the centre, we are perhaps their first point of contact with Christ.



Is it a Cafe? Is it a Community Centre? What exactly is it?



The new look centre will be a great place to meet people, there will be lots of facilities for the children and we will be serving snacks, drinks, and a limited menu over lunchtime eventually. There is the possibility of opening for some hours at the weekend too. We plan to hold lots of different activities, "Who let the Dad's Out?" will recommence soon and the ballet class will return also, we are also looking at a number of family related activities for the Springtime that look to encourage people to explore the whole of life.



Already we have hosted a number of Coffee mornings for different regiments which have been well attended... Once the COVID regulations lift and the kitchen is upgraded we will be able to offer so much more. In our first few weeks of being open, just before lockdown 2, we started to connect with a number of soldiers and in particular their wives, the hall became a great meeting place for folk.

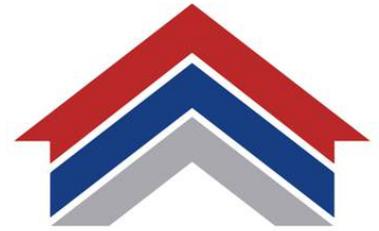
Our challenge is to build community once the Covid regulations permit, it's time for something fresh and new in the Connaught Centre....

**David & Lynn**

# FOCUS

on

## Lisburn & Ballykinlar



**SANDES**

The soldier's friend  
since 1869

### SECOND CHANCES

“ Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.” Mark 16:7

As I sit to write this report I am reflecting on what a strange year this has been, I don't think that anyone in the world has been unaffected by Covid 19 and many peoples' lives have been turned upside down. It certainly has been a year in which there have been many frustrations and disappointments with many peoples' plans being curtailed by restrictions and regulations that we have never seen before in our lifetime. The opportunities to go places and see people have been greatly curtailed. This afternoon I was chatting to a soldier in the centre who, by his own admission, has not always made the best choices in life and has had to face the consequences of this, of not making the most of

the opportunities. I told him I would pray for him and he said “there's no point in wasting your prayers on me”. I was able to share that God is a God of second chances as He has proven in my life. I have shared with him previously about some of the mistakes that I have made in my life. In the verse above Jesus had just appeared to Mary after the resurrection. Why does the text say “especially Peter”? Peter had recently denied Jesus 3 times and had distanced himself from Him. He possibly felt that his decision had meant that he was a lost cause and he was ready to go back to his old way of life. Jesus knew this and He specifically included him in His request. Peter was given another chance and he took it and was used by God to help build the early church and spread the Good News throughout the world. It doesn't matter what your past is God is interested in giving you another chance for

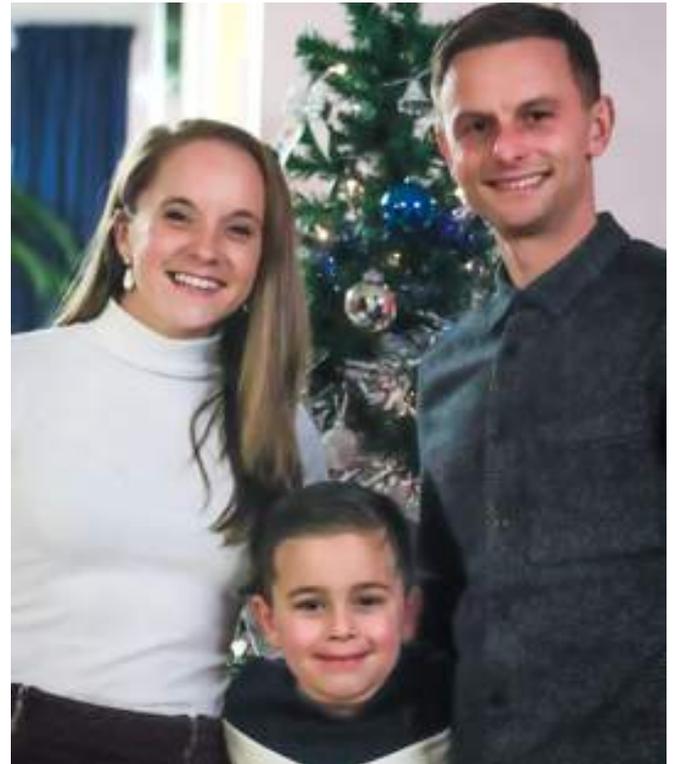
your future!

This quarter in Sandes Lisburn has been a season of chances and changes, chances to be there, chances to change the way we operate, chances to change our opening hours and chances to offer hope. We have had to swap between offering a takeaway only service and a limited “socially distanced” sit in service, depending on what the regulations have been. Yes, we have been frustrated about the times when people were not allowed to sit in as Sandes has always been a “home away from home” and “a place to find space” and not being able to sit and share with people has been difficult. We probably have had an opportunity to chat with more people as they are waiting near the counter on their food arriving and we have been able to get to know some of the regulars a little better.

One of the other things we’ve done is when we heard of regulars we know who were self-isolating we have taken them some of the usual orders to cheer them up. They have really appreciated the fact that there are people caring for them in their difficult times.

During this quarter the “2 Rifles” returned from their tour of Afghanistan and most of them

went on leave and will be returning to camp after Christmas. They were only on camp for a short time before going on leave but it was great to see them back and some of them called in to say thanks for the “morale boxes” they received from us while out on tour.”



In early December we said farewell to Victoria who had worked with us for 2 years. Her husband’s posting to Northern Ireland had come to its end and they returned to Windsor. Victoria was a great worker and was always dancing and singing in the kitchen and is well liked by all staff and visitors. We pray for her, Daniel and Riley that God will bless them in this next chapter of their lives. We will be starting new people in January to replace her and also Gina who

will be going on maternity leave. Gina is another fantastic worker who we will miss and we were delighted to hear her say that she wants to return to work with us after her maternity leave. Leanne continues to be a blessing to us and has built up really good relationships with the staff and is getting to know the regulars and having good conversations with them. She has picked up the role well and has been a great support. We praise God for her.



The Armed Forces Christian Union prayer meeting has continued to meet fortnightly in the centre (when not curtailed by Covid regulations). These are really encouraging times of Bible study and prayer. We are blessed by all in the group even though everyone cannot meet every time due to work commitments. Being a Christian in the military can be very

difficult at times and it is great to be able to support our serving brothers and sisters and their families in this way.

In this new year ahead we do not know what to expect. With a vaccine being rolled out we all hope for a return to some type of normality. It will be great when we will be able to put all our tables back out and re-open our family room as we have really missed the families and the buzz they bring with them to the Centre. One of the families who were leaving called to get a last “Sandies” before they left and because there was no sit in and the family room was closed they had a picnic in the carpark in the boot of their car....



We hope to continue to be adaptable to whatever situations that come our way and we have hope in our God and Saviour. We know that He is in control and that He is still giving us (and you) opportunities to serve Him.

**Trevor & Jan**

# Trusting in God.....

'The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.' Psalm 32:8

God's guidance and hand on my life never fails to leave me amazed. There are a few times in life where I have had no doubt that He has planned and worked His will out for my life so clearly and all I can do is faithfully follow Him. 2020 has been one of those times for me personally. I understand so many have suffered and lost more than I can comprehend but for me, 2020 has been a time of reflection, rest, thankfulness and a new direction.

I am so thankful He is so invested in our lives, that He brings all the details together for His good and all the while making us more like Christ. I am beyond thankful to Him for His Fatherly love and care to protect and guide me into this incredible mission after being in secular work for so long.

I had known it was wise for me to change employment in 2019 for various reasons, and yet I held off until the beginning of this year, and God directed me (not so randomly) to the website

that had the job advertisement for a Support Worker with Sandes in it. When I read about the vision and purpose of Sandes, my passion for full time ministry was reignited and I knew this was the place I wanted to serve. Everything fell into place, as only God can do, and I was amazed with stepping into the new role so soon. Even during lockdown, as the Centres were closed, I felt that God had been so gracious and generous to allow me some rest, space, time with family and to prepare for my next step into the mission. Just as Sandes is about creating "a place to find space", my experience was that God gave me exactly that to mentally and physically recover from what was left behind.

It was my honour and privilege to start with Sandes in 2020, and I hope to be as much of a blessing to them as they already have been to me. God has guided, protected and blessed me this year abundantly and I am fully confident that He will continue to guide us along the best pathway for our lives as we seek Him and serve for His glory.

**Leanne**

# Deputations

Would you like someone from Sandes to visit your church group and talk about the work that Sandes does with the military?

Learn of the history of Sandes and what goes on at each of our Centres.

See the materials and literature that we distribute in the U.K. and across the world to support our soldiers.

Join the hundreds of people who support the work of Sandes. Stand with us as we seek to bring Christian love and witness to those within HM Forces.

To arrange a suitable date and time, please call  
Head Office on 028 90 500 250 or email [admin@sandes.org.uk](mailto:admin@sandes.org.uk)

## PLEASE PRAY!

By now, all of our Centres are opened again after the lock-down closures.

Please pray:

- for the on-going health and safety of all of our staff
- that those directly affected by the virus will see God's healing
- that the finances of the Mission will be adequately replenished to enable us to continue forward
- that the new kitchen for the Centre in Aldershot will soon be completed
- for David, Lynn and Leanne as they continue to settle into the Sandes family, and that they will be a blessing to the work of the Mission

**"And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him?  
And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?"**

**Romans 10:14 (NLT)**

# Prayer Diary



## Prayer Requests

**Pray for the Sandes family and all those affected by the coronavirus**

**Pray that the Sandes Prayer meeting will be able to safely meet again soon**

**Pray for the Head Office staff as they seek to support the important work of the Centres**

**Pray that the impact of the pandemic on the work of the mission will be overcome**

**Pray for more people to commit to supporting Sandes, both prayerfully and practically**

Please pray for our Superintendents and Support Workers:

Jim and Mary Jane McCracken  
Mark and Sally Nieuwoudt

Harrogate  
Harrogate

Chris and Marlene Wilkinson

Hollywood

Trevor and Jan Pinkerton  
Leanne Briggs

Lisburn/Ballykinlar  
Lisburn/Ballykinlar

James and Michelle Loubser

Pirbright

David and Lynn Webb

Aldershot

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Colossians 4: 2-3**

# January 2021



## Please pray for:

- 1 rest & restoration for all the staff of Sandes at the start of the New Year
- 2 soldiers and their families suffering from the consequences of conflict
- 3 God's favour and blessing on all Christian ministries to the military
- 4 the work of Sandes to bear fruit in the lives of those we reach out to
- 5 courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Army
- 6 those in the Sandes family who need a healing touch from the Lord
- 7 increased footfall in all our centres
- 8 the Bibles and literature being distributed at our centres to be effective
- 9 encouragement and blessing on those who prayerfully support Sandes
- 10 divine inspiration for Padres taking services today in the Garrison Churches
- 11 wisdom on new initiatives or opportunities presented to Sandes
- 12 good relationships and partnership with Padres on camp
- 13 the Lord's financial provision for the work in the year ahead
- 14 a secure spiritual climate on camps and especially in our Sandes Centres
- 15 opportunities to help and witness despite the busyness of running the Centres
- 16 the marriages and health of the families of Sandes workers
- 17 protection for the Sandes Mission against spiritual attack
- 18 protection for our troops serving and training throughout the world
- 19 Sandes to know a fresh anointing as we face the challenges of this age
- 20 breakthroughs as we see people within the military being saved
- 21 goodwill support from the Commanding Officers and their teams on all our camps
- 22 the Sandes Monthly Prayer Meeting today via Zoom
- 23 wisdom for the Sandes Committee
- 24 a deep revelation of God's love for all those attending Garrison services today
- 25 those soldiers and recruits who have come to Sandes with life issues
- 26 growth in the Sandes prayer and financial support base
- 27 opportunities with wives and children on all of the camps
- 28 all the little seeds of faith planted through Sandes, that they would grow and bear fruit
- 29 soldiers and their families to come to living faith in Christ
- 30 settled and committed teams in Sandes
- 31 each opportunity to share the Gospel

**Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27**

# February 2021



## Please pray for:

- 1 the safety of our soldiers on deployment
- 2 for our vice presidents and others working behind the scenes to create this platform for Sandes outreach
- 3 James and Michelle and their Team in Pirbright
- 4 Jim and Mary Jane and their Team in Harrogate
- 5 a secure spiritual climate on camps and especially in our Sandes Centres
- 6 wisdom on new initiatives or opportunities presented to Sandes
- 7 a harvest of the seeds of the Gosel that have been planted through Sandes
- 8 opportunities in Hollywood despite low troop numbers on site
- 9 new opportunities for outreach in each of our Centres
- 10 David and Lynn in Aldershot
- 11 good rapport with all soldiers coming to the Centres
- 12 Trevor and Jan and their Team in Lisburn
- 13 a sense of peace and Godly purpose for those workers facing challenges
- 14 divine inspiration for Padres taking services today
- 15 the right people to come forward as volunteers for the Centres
- 16 the value of Sandes to be recognised and supported by all of those within the welfare elements of the Army
- 17 Chris and Marlene and their Team in Hollywood
- 18 God's leading for the future of Sandes
- 19 the Sandes Monthly Prayer meeting at noon today via Zoom
- 20 a growth in the support base of Sandes
- 21 a sense of freshness and newness for those who encounter the message of hope in Sandes
- 22 protection for our troops serving and training throughout the world
- 23 increased usage of the Sandes centres with opportunities to impact lives
- 24 encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to share their faith
- 25 Sandes to be relevant to today's soldiers
- 26 Bibles, literature and dog tags being distributed through our Centres
- 27 wisdom for the Sandes Committee
- 28 fresh ideas and effective ways for outreach within and beyond the Sandes Centres

**Look at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.**

**Habakkuk 1:5**

# March 2021



## Please pray for:

- 1 Jim and Mary Jane and their Team in Harrogate
- 2 the CVWW meeting being held on-line today
- 3 the health and well being of the family members of those working in Sandes
- 4 good and supportive relationships with Padres on the camps
- 5 encouragement and blessing on those who prayerfully support Sandes
- 6 the kitchen staff who do not yet know Jesus as their Saviour
- 7 all Christian agencies working with the military
- 8 a renewed sense of vision and a fresh anointing on Sandes
- 9 a secure spiritual climate on camps and especially in our Centres
- 10 conviction of the Holy Spirit to awaken people within the military community from spiritual apathy and unbelief
- 11 James and Michelle and the Team in Pirbright
- 12 soldiers and their families suffering from the consequences of conflict
- 13 people to consider supporting Sandes in their legacy planning
- 14 a growth in foot fall across all our Centres
- 15 David and Lynn in Aldershot
- 16 opportunities to witness despite the busyness of running centres
- 17 Sandes workers would know real peace and encouragement in their endeavours
- 18 Trevor and Jan and their Team in Lisburn
- 19 the Sandes Monthly Prayer meeting at noon today via Zoom
- 20 continued protection for Sandes against spiritual attack
- 21 praise God for recent breakthroughs and pray that we would see more people saved
- 22 the Lord's financial provision for the work of the Mission
- 23 courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Army
- 24 growth in the support base for Sandes
- 25 that the new CVWW charter would still confirm Army housing without charge for Sandes
- 26 that more and more people will catch the vision for Sandes
- 27 thanksgiving for all of our volunteers
- 28 a deep revelation of God's love to all attending garrison services today
- 29 Chris and Marlene and their Team in Hollywood
- 30 wisdom for new initiatives
- 31 the team in Head Office

**"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"**  
Jeremiah 32:27

# Colonel Rev. Robbie Hall QGM



To accept an invitation to the role of a Sandes' Vice President without knowing all that is likely to be required of you, is a brave act. However, the people who do accept such an invitation are always brave men whose lives have been committed to the British Armed Forces for many years.

One of these brave men at the time Sandes issued his invitation was Colonel Robbie Hall QGM. One example of his bravery was his willingness to preach at the Sandes 125th Anniversary Service at All Saints Garrison Church, Pirbright, in 1994. The incentive to accept

the invitation was, in his own words, "On the 8th of December 1988 I knelt down in my room and made a prayer of repentance and committment to Christ!" That incentive of a committment to Christ drove him through a formidable military career, which took him to Northern Ireland, the Falklands, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and as a young soldier before he trusted Christ, to serve as a bomb disposal officer. When he accepted the invitation from the Sandes Committee to become a Vice President in 1995, Sandes knew that they had every right to feel greatly honoured, and they were proved right. His interest, prayer support and, when possible, visits to the Centres were an immense reason for gratitude and.... yes, great pride!

His retirement from the Army established him as pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Bridgend, South Wales, but he remained in his role as a Vice President of Sandes until his Lord and Saviour called him Home. The full extent of our loss of a valued and much loved Vice President has yet to be revealed.

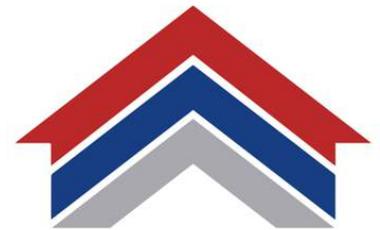
Our sincere sympathies and prayers are with the Hall family.

**Hazel Knox MBE**

# FOCUS

on

# Harrogate



**SANDES**

The soldier's friend  
since 1869



Well it's that most wonderful time of the year! Hmmmmm, well it really is, we made it through another year and what a year it was!

Yes, we were sad that we had to do a takeaway only menu and yes, half of our team was missing (Mark and Sally) but you know we did OK and though we came to the end of other year serving at Harrogate looking back over our blessings we can still

smile, look up and say "we know that was you Lord ...."

Well we just can't wait for things to return to something normal! These last few months have been a challenge for us to say the least, but with a little jiggle here and there we were able to still keep everyone happy and fed and watered. Your favourite food "just how you like it" is really good for morale and over this year

there have been many times that it did just make someone's day and gave them the wee boost that they just needed.

The support from the permanent staff and junior soldiers has been amazing. In the last few weeks we have seen junior soldiers coming in for takeaway but we still managed to get a wee chat and say "how are you doing?" They loved seeing the Christmas tree but sadly the whole Centre was not decked out this year but Lord willing we can really go to town on it next Christmas!



It is always great to see new faces in the Centre! One soldier who had popped in was Stephen who was here as a junior soldier 10 years ago he remembered Sandes and us from his time in training and is now back as a NCO. It was great to see him again and to see how well he has

done so far in his Army career. I was having a wee clear out and came across a card from one of the permanent staff who had been posted and who was a regular in Sandes. Dee had written on his card "being away from home, but still feeling you are home - that's Sandes". We really look forward to the time when Sandes can be a home again. While the takeaway service is working and we can still hear the banter and the woes, it's that wee Time Out just to sit and relax even for a few minutes out of a busy day that makes a big difference.

I have to say that everyone has done a sterling job of keeping Covid at bay in AFC Harrogate. It has been a year none of us expected or would have ever dreamed we would be in this situation, but I think we all made the best of a bad situation and did our best to keep things normal for everyone.

Jim and I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Denise our cook, bottle washer and everything else we needed for standing with us to keep the centre going for the soldiers. We couldn't have done it without her she has been a true diamond! We had a lot of laughter when the going got tough so thank you Denise,



from the bottom of our hearts.

Sadly Padre Green has now left us and he will be missed. He gave us friendship and wise council and I'm sure he must feel blessed by his ministry here. We were blessed to know him we wish him and Michelle every blessing in their new post.

So as I write this report we are

on our countdown to Christmas leave and rest and hopefully some family time. As we end the year we thank God for His blessings to all of us and the work of Sandes Harrogate for His protection on all our soldiers. We look forward to the new year when we hope that things will return to some kind of normal but we are in safe hands no matter what is ahead. We thank all of you who have prayed for us, encouraged us along the way and supported us through this year. We have good reason to remember 2020, after all it wasn't all bad! We send Christmas wishes and a very happy and blessed New year to you all. Keep safe.

**Jim & Maryjane**

## **SANDES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021**

Sadly, due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 virus, the Committee has decided to not hold the Sandes Annual Conference in 2021. God willing, we hope to gather again in 2022 in Rydal Hall in Cumbria from 8 - 10 April.

# FOCUS

on

## Hollywood



The soldier's friend  
since 1869

**“In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world”**

**John 16:33**

I recently read about a charity called Rain City Housing. This charity is, I believe, based in Vancouver, Canada and has done something very special for vulnerable people living on the streets. They have created special benches that convert into temporary shelters. The back of the bench pulls up to create a roof that can shield a person from wind and rain. At night, these sleeping benches are easy to find because they feature a glow in the dark message that reads, this is a bedroom.

Now not only is there a need for physical shelter, but there is also a great need for spiritual shelter and that can only be found in God, He is a refuge for our souls when we are troubled.

In the Bible, King David wrote these words “I call as my heart

grows faint, lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Ps 61:2). In times like these, when we are emotionally overloaded, we are more vulnerable to the enemies tactics: fear, worry, doubt, unrest, to name but a few. When these emotions overrun us, we need a source of stability and safety. Only by taking refuge in God, can we have that stability and safety. David said to the Lord , “You have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to take refuge in the shelter of your wings” (Ps 61: 3–4). When we are overwhelmed, peace and protection are ours. Jesus said, “In me you may have peace.”

As we leave the old year behind and the New Year looms ahead, let us all take comfort and strength from the One who is mighty and powerful.

We pray that the regiment and their families over the past year have found Sandes to be a place to find the One who offers that peace and rest. In times of change we have had opportunities to share our faith

and share how the Lord has been our shelter and refuge.

### **Children's work**

As we look back over the year it has been so unfortunate not to have held our Good News Club but, on a positive note, the youth club leader on camp approached me about the possibility of holding a Christmas special via zoom or some other form of media. I have been in touch with Roberta Sherlock and Julie Fenton from CEF and they have agreed to set up the system to facilitate the Christmas special. Pray with us for all that is entailed in the setting up and the smooth running of this annual event as in past years the boys and girls and even parents have always enjoyed the Christmas story.

### **Other opportunities**

Besides ministering to the regiment and their families, we have had other opportunities within the army family. I have been involved in officiating at some remembrance services over the last few months and was able to give out both Bibles and dog tags at the last remembrance service which was on the 22nd of November. Held in Lisburn at the UDR memorial statue, it was a special act of remembrance for the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Defence

Regiment. After the service, I was able to give out several UDR dog tags; one of those who received a dog tag was First Minister Mrs. Arlene Foster. She was not familiar with the work of Sandes, so I had the opportunity to share with her something about the mission. I thanked her for her time and for the interest she had shown.



May we all be encouraged together as we embark on another year – remember that God is in control and that He is our refuge and strength. Therefore, let us go forward with a renewed confidence that the Lord is going before us and He will guide us in His ways through difficult times. Let us take courage in Him, remembering that God's provision for yesterday gives hope and strength for today.

Thank you all again for your prayers and support. We wish you every blessing for the New Year.

**Chris & Marlene**

# FOCUS

on

## Pirbright



### **A Time To Remember: Raising an Ebenezer!**

As we come to the end of 2020, we hear many folk say that they just want this year to end, they just want to forget all about 2020 and we have found ourselves tempted to agree until we realised that God actually wants us to look back and remember! There are numerous places in the Bible where the Israelites were encouraged to place stones in order to remember – to remember that God is faithful and always there to help and deliver His people. Joshua had the people take 12 stones on their journey to make the memorial once crossing into the Promised land and Samuel set up a stone to commemorate the help God had given the Israelites in battle. We want to look back over 2020 and place the stones ....

In January we remember praying for a recruit who was on the verge of being discharged due to possibly having sickle cell

disease. We, however, attended her Pass off parade with great pride as she was totally healed and completed her training.

In February we got to share love with little folk and special folk.



In March we were making new friends even though social distancing was starting and of course with all the clips and photos on social media, were continuously kept laughing.

Through April, May and June we were still able to open the centre for different welfare socially distanced events and even through doing only take-aways, talk to many soldiers and staff.

However, during these months, the greatest joy of all was seeing new life being birthed as others sadly left our earth.



Soldiers and previous staff allowed us some special cuddles, of course all remaining in our bubbles.

July, August, September, there were just so many events to remember: Birthdays of staff, relentless fundraising efforts of training teams,



and of course masks to make us laugh at the seams.

In October we started to say goodbye to friends made we will never forget as their two years in Pirbright had been spent and of course November is always a month of remembrance, of a trait we still see daily in our soldiers, one of constant perseverance.

December being the end of year, there certainly has been lots of cheer. Decorations, cards and movie nights have reminded us the end is in sight.



So, we build our Ebenezer to know that God is faithful and God has seen us through and as we look to 2021 we know again His Will will be done as it is all for and about HIS SON.

Wishing you all a very blessed and prosperous 2021!

**James & Michelle**

# LEGACY PLANNING

**As Christians we believe, and live our lives according to the principle, that everything we own comes from God and is entrusted to us for our life on earth. We are stewards of our family, property, belongings and finances.**

We know that this earth is not our home and so we endeavour to steward our possessions in such a way as to leave a lasting legacy. That legacy will first and foremost be a gospel legacy – a godly life lived to the glory of God and so we employ our resources to that end.

We all know that at some stage we will leave this present world and enter our eternal rest and will no longer have need of our earthly possessions. What a joy it is to know that even after our death we can still be a blessing to those we leave behind!

We can use our possessions to make provision for our family and friends, but we can also utilise our possessions to leave a legacy in providing for the furtherance of Gospel work.

Sandes has benefitted in immeasurable ways from individuals who have left a legacy in their wills for a specific project or the wider work of the mission. This giving is not budgeted for and can be utilised in a way that can propel and fuel some previously unplanned aspect to the ministry. In the past, legacies have been used to assist with running and core costs and the purchase of important and necessary items for the Centres.

No matter how large or small, each gift can and will make a significant impact on the work of the mission and ministry for the glory of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to find out more or if you would like to leave a gift in your will to Sandes, please contact the Mission Director who would gratefully speak with you in confidence.

## Gift Aid

**Gift Aid is a tax relief allowing UK charities such as Sandes to reclaim an extra 25% on every eligible donation made by a UK tax payer.**

For every £1 that is kindly and generously donated to further the work of Sandes, HMRC will increase the value of your donation by 25p (25%). This extra amount makes a huge difference to the work of Sandes.

When you donate, please circle "YES" on the donation page to confirm whether or not you are a UK taxpayer. Please note that Gift Aid can only be reclaimed on donations made by individuals who pay UK income or capital gains tax at a rate at least equal to the amount reclaimed on their donations in the current tax year.

If you have any queries, please contact Sandes Head Office on  
028 9050 0250 or via email on [admin@sandes.org.uk](mailto:admin@sandes.org.uk)



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