

FOCUS



The soldier's friend
since 1869

SANDES Soldiers' & Airmen's Centres

April – June 2020



As with a band of soldiers, meeting together and fellowship is an important part of our faith. Coming together to support one another is an experience that allows us to learn, gain strength, and show the world exactly what God is.

Fellowship Gives Us a Picture of God

Each of us together shows all of God's graces to the world. No one is perfect. We all sin, but each of us has a purpose here on Earth to show aspects of God to those around us. Each of us has been given specific spiritual gifts. When we come together in fellowship, it's like us as a whole demonstrating God. Think of it like a cake. You need the flour, sugar, eggs, oil, and more to make a cake. The eggs will never be the flour. None of them make up the cake alone. Yet together, all those ingredients make a delicious cake. It is like that will fellowship. All of us together show the glory of God.

Romans 12:4-6 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith." (NIV)

Fellowship Makes Us Stronger

No matter where we are in our faith, fellowship provides us with strength. Being around other believers gives us the chance to learn and grow in our faith. It demonstrates to us why we believe and sometimes is the excellent food for our souls. It's great to be out in the world evangelizing to others, but it can easily make us hard and eat away at our strength. When we deal with a hard-hearted world, it can become easy to fall into that hard-heartedness and question our beliefs. It's always good to spend some time in fellowship so that we remember that God makes us strong.

Matthew 18:19-20 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (NIV)

Fellowship Provides Encouragement

We all have bad moments. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, a failed exam, money problems, or even a crisis of faith, we can find ourselves down. If we go too low, it can lead to anger and a feeling of disillusionment with God. Yet these low times are why fellowship is important. Spending time with other believers can often lift us up a little bit. They help us to keep our eyes on God. God also works through them to provide us what we need in

them to provide us what we need in darker times. Coming together with others can aid in our healing process and give us the encouragement to move forward.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (NLT)

Fellowship Reminds Us We're Not Alone

Coming together with other believers in worship and conversation helps to remind us that we are not alone in this world. There are believers everywhere. It's amazing that no matter where you are in the world when you meet another believer, it's like you suddenly feel at home. That's why God made fellowship so important. He wanted us to come together so that we always know we're not alone. Fellowship allows us to build those lasting relationships so we're never by ourselves in the world.

1 Corinthians 12:21 *"The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.'"* (NLT)

Fellowship Helps Us Grow

Coming together is a great way for each of us to grow in our faith. Reading our Bibles and

praying are great ways to get closer to God, but each of us has important lessons to impart to one another. When we come together in fellowship, we teach each other things. God gives us a gift of learning and growing when we come together in fellowship, we show each other how to live as God wants us to live, and how to walk in His footsteps.

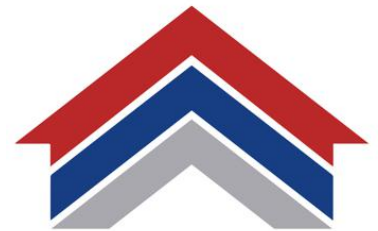
1 Corinthians 14:26 *"Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you."* (NLT)

While close personal fellowship is to be avoided during the coronavirus epidemic, we can still enjoy fellowship through our computers, our tablets and our phones. Although we cannot meet together as often as we would like, we can still telephone each other or use Skype and Facetime to encourage each other through this difficult time of isolation and lack of fellowship. Pray that God will give us all opportunities to reach out to those who may not know Him or to those who need a word of encouragement until such times as we can gather together again.

FOCUS

on

Hollywood



SANDES

The soldier's friend
since 1869

**“Oh, give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good, for His mercy
endures for ever” Psalm
118:1**

I wonder have you ever, in times of trouble, had a good old-fashioned dose of memory loss and forgotten the grace of God? If you have, a good way to refresh your memory is to have a thankful heart, set aside time and deliberately remember God's past provisions for you and give thanks.

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good, for His mercy
endures for ever.” Psalm 118:1

The word mercy means steadfast love; it refers to God's faithfulness. He has promised to be present and always to care for His children. When we remember the specific ways God has provided for us in the past, it can change our perspective for the better; God's steadfast love endures for ever. Remembering

God's provision for yesterday gives hope and strength for today. Therefore, with Psalm 118:1 in mind, may we learn to meet the challenges that lie ahead, the struggling footfall, the preparations of looking forward to a new regiment coming to Hollywood and now the coronavirus. As I write these notes, some of our customers are asking questions about end times. As they look at a changing world, with that and much more in mind, we are looking to forward to all that God is going to do. Let us take a moment to give thanks for God's goodness and for the opportunities He has given to minister into lives here in Hollywood.

Giving thanks for the Good News Club

Easter is upon us and we hope (!) to hold our usual Easter specials in conjunction with the Youth Club. We thank Roberta and Julie for coming along to minister to the boys and girls.

The majority of those who attend do not go to our Good News Club. We treasure these times and it was a joy to have this open door to minister to these boys and girls from two different age groups. We would love to see more of these children come to the weekly club. Our own Good News Club continues and we are so excited and encouraged by the group we have, they are such a pleasure to teach. The children sing their little hearts out and are so attentive when being taught the lessons and memory verse. Please pray with us for their salvation. We appreciate the help of Joyce and Stephanie, who give sacrificially of their time and talents.

(Since writing these notes, we have had to finish Good News Club because of the coronavirus).

Giving thanks for the Regiment

We thank the regiment for the support they have given us since they arrived, and for the friendships that have been forged. Please continue to remember them in prayer as well as their families as, I am sure you are aware by now, they have been away on various tours and training exercises. These times can be quite a strain on both the wives and the children. Some of our

Good News Club children continue to ask us to pray for the Dads, and in some cases their Mums.

We thank God for some of the recent opportunities over the last few months with the regiment and especially "R". He is an ex-serviceman and now a civilian who was a regular visitor while serving with the regiment and continues to call in to Sandes when he is on camp. We have had some interesting and challenging conversations! Please pray for a break-through in the issues that are preventing him making a commitment for Christ.

May we all be encouraged together as we remember that God is in control. We just have to listen to Him, learn from Him and lean on Him, because He is a faithful God. Therefore, let us go forward with a renewed confidence that the Lord is going before us and He will guide us in His ways and through difficult times. Let us take courage in Him, remembering that God's provision for yesterday gives us hope and strength for today.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support.

Chris & Marlene

FOCUS

on

Harrogate



I am sure many of you reading this report have at times thought "what am I doing here" and many of the junior soldiers have said it took places like Sandes to help them settle into army life. Several of them tell me that there should be a Sandes in every Army camp - wouldn't that be amazing!

Do you remember us telling you about the four man team from the college going to row (yes, ROW) across the Atlantic? Well they DID IT! They made it safely across and we were able to follow their progress throughout. It would have surely changed them as people, and I am sure in many ways it has changed their lives. Congratulations to Colonel Hall, Chris, Kian and Alex.

I have been home unwell for 6 or so weeks and sadly I missed the pass off of Waterloo and Cambria companies. Thanks to technology I was able to see it

all live, and I still cried as always! They were amazing everyone that took part and were a real credit to the college. They had a very special VIP guest, HRH Prince Edward! It made a very special memory for everyone.



The Centre is being well used and friendships are being made. When Sally is front of house she is fearless when the queue is out both doors. Everyone plays their part to make sure that anyone who comes in goes away happy. We get many opportunities to talk to all the soldiers about how they are loved and tell them of the Gospel of Jesus.

The Padres here in AFC Harrogate are great supporters of Sandes as are the ladies and Phil from the welfare team. They all call in for a wee chat. There are so many good people who behind the scenes are helping to support Sandes and the team here. I might add we thank God for these people, they are a real blessing.



We are always sad when people go! The junior soldiers really get into your heart! Yes, they are trained soldiers, but in Sandes we see them as the kids that first came into us, and we have had many a laugh at what they will tell us but not the staff. Mark has made many friends with the permanent staff and was invited to watch the college Boxing that took place here in the college. Fortunately, he did not volunteer to take part, maybe next year! Denise continues to be our diamond in the Sandes

crown. She will go out of her way to help anyone!

In these days ahead many of our service men and women will be called on to help fight this invisible enemy, please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. As for tomorrow we will be ready to fly the Sandes flag again and look forward with hope in the mighty GOD WE SERVE!

Jim & Maryjane

FOCUS

on

Aldershot



Work towards opening the new Centre in Aldershot has hit a wall due to the coronavirus pandemic!

David and Lynn have settled into their home in Aldershot, and have already built up some strong relationships with some of the other organisations working in the Connaught Centre, as well as some of their neighbours.

Plans had been started to refurbish and restyle the kitchen, offices and the large hall. Furniture had been chosen, and the layout of the area had been planned.

Through the goodness of God, our fundraising target was achieved., and all concerned were ready to press forward. Unfortunately, the Army has had to divert its resources into contingency planning for what may be required of it as the pandemic affects the country.

While this is deeply frustrating for

everyone involved, we know that God's timing is perfect. So while we are disappointed at not being able to open the new Sandes Centre in April, we know that when we do open, it will be at the right time to offer support and demonstrate God's love to the military community in Aldershot.

Like many others, I believe that the disruption that the coronavirus is causing to so many will cause some to reflect on why it is happening. There will be more time for people to slow down and re-evaluate their lives, and allow God the time and space to speak into lives that were too busy for Him.

So while our human plans have been frustrated, we trust that the great Planner and Creator, our Father God, is still firmly in control!

Meet the Webbs!

David & Lynn Webb will be running the new Centre in Aldershot



We are David and Lynn Webb, we have been married for almost 38 years, I was an ordained minister when Lynn & I met and our life has been a faith Adventure. Soon after we married we moved to Kingdom Faith Ministries in Sussex and later became church planters in the Midlands and Oxfordshire. We have 3 married daughters and 4 grand children. For the past 21 years have been missionaries based in Thessaloniki, Greece and Tirana, Albania, sent out by a network of churches from around the UK which had its HQ in Aldershot, Hampshire.

Since we became followers of

Jesus in the 1970's our passion has always been to grow faith community wherever we have found ourselves. In Greece and Albania this centred around our home and local cafe's from where we would reach out to share the Gospel of Christ! We have found ourselves with a large range of relationships from all over the world.

Our desire remains to be people of faith, who walk closely with and trust the Lord to guide our steps and see Faith community Grow. The invitation to head up the Sandes project in Aldershot is a great opportunity to once again grow a Faith Community.. At a time of Seeking God for clarity about our calling the following scripture from Matthew 5:13–16 (The Message) was particularly helpful.

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.” Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world.

God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Going into the world, every believer's call requires us to see the potential in those we encounter, Lynn as a trained Doula has great opportunities to reach out to Mothers and Babies; David as Spiritual father also has many opportunities to connect with the many young men in the army environment... Aldershot provides a great opportunity for both Sandes and ourselves to expand our hospitality based work in a totally new environment, a centre outside of the wire reaching out to families...

The Aldershot Opportunity

The birth of something new often has its challenges; Aldershot is a large Garrison town with a host of regiments and a visionary garrison leader, Lt. Col. Baines. Like many towns in the UK Aldershot town centre

has a slightly neglected feel where the centre has ceased to be the centre... however an ambitious plan to redevelop and make Aldershot great again is currently in development. Older properties are being compulsorily purchased to make way for the adventurous plans.

The Colonel has seen the need for community to develop amongst the many army families who spend a season of their lives in Aldershot and there is an on-going desire to see soldiers rather more rooted in the society than living the familiar transient lifestyle which constantly uproots the families – and especially the children to new locations.

The Big challenge is not the activities, but to create a place where people encounter God! They will of course meet with one another but our desire is that the presence of God will be a living reality at the heart of the centre... We are not short of ideas, however we are keen to walk slowly into this project offering something that strongly engages with all three dimensions of Body, Mind and Spirit... making Jesus known in the midst of Life.

David & Lynn

Prayer Diary



17th April	Sandes Prayer Meeting
24-26 April	Sandes Annual Conference
15th May	Sandes Prayer Meeting
26th May	Sandes A.G.M.
19th June	Sandes Prayer Meeting

Prayer Requests

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

A true friend and long time supporter Sandes, Harry McCullough, has been called to Glory. Please remember his wife Susan at her time of loss.

Please pray for our Superintendents and Support Workers:

Jim and Mary Jane McCracken	Harrogate
Mark and Sally Nieuwoudt	Harrogate
Chris and Marlene Wilkinson	Holywood
Trevor & Jan Pinkerton	Lisburn/Ballykinlar
Leanne Briggs	Lisburn/Ballykinlar
James and Michelle Loubser	Pirbright
David & Lynn Webb	Aldershot

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

April 2020



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 divine inspiration for Padres taking services today
- 6 wisdom on new initiatives or opportunities presented to Sandes
- 7 final preparations for the Annual Conference later this month
- 8 renewed commitment and expectation for everyone at the upcoming conference
- 9 a secure spiritual climate on camps and especially in our Sandes Centres
- 10 Chris and Marlene and their team in Hollywood
- 11 good rapport with all soldiers coming to the Centres
- 12 encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to share their faith
- 13 Sandes to be relevant to today's soldiers
- 14 Bibles, literature and dog tags being distributed through our centres
- 15 the right people to come forward as volunteers in Lisburn
- 16 Trevor and Jan and their team in Lisburn
- 17 The Sandes Prayer Meeting today
- 18 God's leading for the future of Sandes
- 19 the value of Sandes to be recognised and supported by all of those within the welfare elements of the Army
- 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 opportunities with recruits coming into Sandes on Saturday evenings
- 24 Those travelling to the Sandes Annual Conference today
- 25 The Sandes Annual Conference and the speaker Rev. Cole Maynard
- 26 Those travelling home from the Sandes Annual Conference
- 27 wisdom for the Sandes Committee
- 28 fresh ideas and effective ways for outreach within and beyond the Sandes Centres
- 29 increased usage of the Sandes centres with opportunities to impact lives
- 30 protection for Sandes against spiritual attack

**Then He spoke to them, that men always ought to pray
and not lose heart. Luke 18:1**

May 2020

Please pray for:



1. opportunities to assist the other welfare agencies within the military in caring for people
2. people to prayerfully consider supporting Sandes through their legacy planning
3. Bibles, literature and dog tags being distributed through our Centres
4. Trevor and Jan and their team in Lisburn
5. Godly inspiration for Padres taking services today in the Garrison Churches
6. new opportunities for outreach in each of our Centres
7. the Commanding Officers on camps where we have Sandes Centres
8. a breakthrough as we see people being saved within the military community
9. encouragement and blessing for all Sandes supporters
10. courage and confidence for Christians serving in the Armed Forces
11. Godly volunteers for our Centres
12. local fellowships and spiritual support for all our workers in Sandes
13. our Vice Presidents working behind the scenes to support Sandes
14. funding requests would be fruitful
15. the Sandes Prayer Meeting today
16. Sandes to know a fresh anointing as we face the challenges of this age
17. rest and restoration of all the workers of Sandes
18. Chris and Marlene and their team in Hollywood
19. Jim and Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
20. those in the Sandes family who need a healing touch from the Lord
21. opportunities with wives and children on all of the camps
22. James and Michelle and their team in Pirbright
23. the value of Sandes to be recognised within the Army
24. the safety of our soldiers on deployment
25. good rapport with soldiers coming in to our Centres
26. the Sandes A.G.M. today
27. continued increased usage of all Sandes Centres and opportunities to impact lives
28. wisdom for the Sandes Council
29. the Lord's financial provision for the work of Sandes
30. settled and committed teams in Sandes
31. continued blessing on the work of Sandes in all our Centres

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16

June 2020

Please pray for:



1. those soldiers who come to Sandes with life issues
2. that more and more people will catch the vision for Sandes
3. soldiers and their families suffering from the consequences of conflict
4. conviction of the Holy Spirit to awaken people within the military community from spiritual apathy and unbelief
5. opportunities to witness despite the busyness of running the Centres
6. funding to replace some worn out furniture in the Centres
7. a deep revelation of God's love to all attending garrison services today
8. for a breakthrough in the work in Holywood
9. God centred unity and single purpose throughout the work of Sandes
10. Trevor and Jan and their team in Lisburn
11. encouragement for Christians in the Armed Forces to live and share their faith
12. Sandes to remain both financially solvent and spiritually effective
13. the marriages and families of those working in Sandes
14. Chris and Marlene and their team in Holywood
15. wisdom on any new initiatives or opportunities presented to Sandes
16. hope for those in the military suffering emotional distress
17. James and Michelle and their team in Pirbright
18. people to prayerfully consider supporting Sandes through their legacy planning
19. soldiers and their families to come to a living faith in Jesus
20. a new generation of faithful Sandes supporters to arise
21. good and supportive relationships with Padres on the camps
22. thanksgiving for all our volunteers
23. wisdom for new initiatives
24. the young recruits in Harrogate
25. Jim and Maryjane and their team in Harrogate
26. the continued increase in footfall throughout our Centres
27. all the little seeds of faith planted through Sandes, that they would grow and bear fruit
28. a fresh anointing as we face the challenges of this age
29. God's favour and blessing on all Christian ministries to the military
30. fresh ideas and effective ways for outreach within and beyond the Sandes Centres on the camps

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2

FOCUS

on

Pirbright



We are family

As we prayed about what to focus on for this issue of our Focus magazine, we were reminded of two very good films we had the opportunity to see in these last three months. In the movie 1917, it was evident that the love for family was the underlying theme for the sacrificial commitment of a friend to reach the frontline and in Military Wives, how the cause forged unlikely people to come together to become family.



The first thing Michelle did after watching Military wives,

was to play the theme song to the Sandes team that relentlessly serve morning and evening shifts in the centre:

We are family

I got all my sisters with me

We are family

Get up everybody and sing

Everyone can see we're together

As we walk on by

(And) and we fly just like birds of a feather

I won't tell no lie

all of the people around us they say

Can they be that close

Just let me state for the record

We're giving love in a family dose

As we reviewed the words of the song, we realized that that is what Sandes is, one big family – recruits, permanent staff, contractors and anyone else who comes in through the doors.

We had the wonderful privilege of having the youngest members of our 'family' pay us a special visit for beans on toast and a story by Michelle. It was so lovely to have Sandy and her team from Peter Pan nursery bring the children into the centre. Many of them were heard saying, 'We know this place, we come here with our mummies!' It certainly was the highlight for the start of the year - we are family!



Not long after this special visit, we also got to celebrate Sandy's birthday with the welfare team in the centre - we are family!!



We also were invited to attend the pass off parade of a recruit who became family to us at the centre. We all felt so proud knowing that she had persevered through some difficult challenges to go onto Phase 2 successfully.



A highlight as this Pass off parade was seeing one of the recruits being proposed to as she completed Phase one. There were many cheers of celebration from all - we are family!



The centre was also a place of celebration as a troop celebrated the end of their phase one training with their fun award ceremony. We so enjoyed the fact that they would want to spend one of their last evenings together in the centre – we are family.



As we are here for him ...



We are family!!!

The centre is also a home from home for many. This lovely young recruit is connected to a faithful supporter of Sandes and we had great pleasure in introducing ourselves to him and assuring him that we are there for him ...



Now, more than ever before, we need to be there for each other. 'We love because He first loved us' 1 John 4:19

James & Michelle

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

PLEASE PRAY!

At the time of printing this issue of FOCUS! some of our centres have either been closed by the Army or are operating a skeleton staff and a take-away only service because of restrictions in force due to the coronavirus.

Please pray:

- for the 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 adequate to survive despite the enforced closures due to the coronavirus
- that the new Centre in Aldershot will get back on track soon, and quickly get established as a haven for the Gospel
- for David, Lynn and Leanne as they 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)

FOCUS

on

Lisburn & Ballykinlar



“Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!” Judges 6:12, NLT

Do you ever look at the situation/circumstances in front of you and think you just can't cope? It is just too big for you! I have felt this way at various times in my life. In Sandes we have little laminated cards, and they have a picture of a soldier kneeling in prayer and they have the words “The task ahead of you is never as great as the power behind you”. It is always encouraging to believe that no matter what the circumstances are that God is bigger than any problem.

The verse above contains the words spoken to Gideon who was hiding away in the bottom of a wine press. Not the actions of a mighty hero. I'm sure Gideon did not feel like the mighty hero, but the message was not talking about Gideon's

past or present situation but was prophesying about his future, and what would be the difference? The presence of God! Gideon was the weakest in his tribe, which was the smallest in Israel, why would God choose Him. When we rely on God's strength and ask Him for His wisdom it doesn't matter how insignificant we feel, He is able to use us for mighty things.

This first quarter of the year has been one of the busiest first quarters we have known, with the shortage of money after Christmas and also traditionally there is a greater emphasis put on training at the beginning of the year. We usually find it to be a quieter time of the year, and although there has been a lot of training exercises involving soldiers based in Lisburn we have remained relatively busy. Our

busiest ever day (so far) in Lisburn was on St Valentine's Day. We really are blessed to have a really good team of workers: no matter how busy we get they just keep their heads down and get on with it. We praise God for all our staff.

It is with the increased busyness of the centre that we have appointed a new full time member of staff to work as a support worker with us both in Lisburn and Ballykinlar. Leanne is the daughter of missionaries and also has experience of working in a church linked café in Edinburgh. She is due to start in April and we are excited to see the team grow which may enable us to expand the opening hours and services we can offer here on camp.

One of the things I often mention in these reports is that it never gets any easier having to say good bye to people who we have gotten to know and friends who have been posted or have left the army. One of the most encouraging things though is linked to the fact that people move on and that is when they send you a message to let you know how they are getting on and to thank you for spending time with them in sometimes difficult moments in their lives. One such message we received recently was from

3 young soldiers who had been part of the army boxing team. They were having a difficult time adjusting to life here and we just listened to them and prayed for them. They are now doing well and 2 of them are considering turning professional, this is an extract from their message "Can't thank you all enough for everything and believe me you don't realise just how much of a difference you make to the battalion and the people's lives. Without sandies people wouldn't have that little haven to break up their day and a break from the problems they encounter. Honestly some of the most loveliest people I've had the pleasure of meeting". There are times we wonder in the busyness of the centre are we allowing God to use us, we praise God for little messages like this which usually come at just the right time.

This quarter we have been really blessed to be hosting a fortnightly bible study in conjunction with the Armed Forces Christian Union. The A.F.C.U. is an all ranks organisation that supports Christians in the armed forces. Our bible study has about 12-15 people who come along when they are free, they all have military connections and are based/live in Northern

Ireland. We encourage and pray for each other and take it in turns to share a short teaching from the Bible. This is something that we have tried to encourage and it's important for these soldiers to have Christian fellowship in an area where it can be often difficult to take a stand for God. The wives prayer time continues during the week, sometimes even meeting more than once a week depending on the availability of the wives to meet. This has been a wonderful source of encouragement to all as they support each other and pray for the needs of the camp.



Martin Riddell from AFCU sharing at the first meeting

We have had opportunity to pray with more customers as there is a greater openness for this to happen as we get to know more people we also

have had requests for prayer in our "Prayer box". Some of these are anonymous and can be about some difficult situations, and although we may not be able to help these people in practical ways, it is a wonderful privilege to take these burdens and concerns to God in prayer.

The work in Ballykinlar continues but has slowed down a little as there has not been as many requests for us to open although we continue to work regularly with the Army recruitment team when they have groups of school leavers down for a "look at life" in the army. We are still available to open on request for cadets and evenings for the regiments using the ranges for training.



Soldiers during training in Ballykinlar

As we enter spring time and start to see the snowdrops and daffodils poking their heads above the ground we praise God that we are starting to see shoots which we believe will lead to the harvest that God has promised us in the work that He has called us to. We continue to reach out in God's love to those He has called us

to work among and we know that He will always be faithful in what He has promised.

“I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest” John 4:38

Trevor & Jan

Meet Leanne!

Leanne Briggs is the new Support Worker for Lisburn and Ballykinler



Hi! My name is Leanne Briggs and I am from Portadown. I've got three siblings, seven nieces and nephews and one slightly crazy dog! I have been working with the Royal Mail for the past five years.

I grew up in Ivory Coast in West Africa, where my parents are still missionaries. I have always had a heart for mission and evangelism because of them, and so I am delighted to be joining the Sandes family serving in Lisburn and Ballykinler. I love being around people and building relationships, so I am really looking forward to getting involved with the daily work that goes on. I am hoping that through supporting Trevor and Jan we will work together to manage the increasingly

busy Centre and grow the work in both Lisburn and Ballykinler, and that I will be able to bring some encouragement when needed! I want to be used by God to support this work, and I know that God will challenge me spiritually and teach me more about Him!

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



Patron:

The Duchess of Kent

Vice Presidents:

General Sir Roger Wheeler G.C.B. C.B.E.
General The Lord Dannatt G.C.B. C.B.E. M.C. D.L.
Major General R J Porter M.B.E.
Major General A N Carlier C.B. O.B.E. B.Sc.
Major General R Thomson C.B.E. D.S.O.
Col. Rev. R G R Hall Q.G.M.
Air Commodore D N Case MSc MRAes RAF

Council:

Chair: Rev. Desi Paul
Vice-Chair: Mr. William Johnston
Mr. Wesley Ballantine
Mr. Norman Boyd
Mr. William Clauson
Mrs. Paula-Anne Knox
Dr. Richard Murphy
Major General R J Porter M.B.E.
Mrs. Joan Scott

Mission Director:

Mr. Gary Robb
SANDES SOLDIERS' & AIRMEN'S CENTRES
Unit 7, 30 Island Street, Belfast BT4 1DH
Tel: 028 9050 0250 Fax: 028 9022 6233
www.sandes.org.uk