



## Amsterdam Staff Songsters Bring Blessings



The Amsterdam Staff Songsters under the leadership of Roel van Kesteren were the sole representative of the sections participating in the Boundless Congress to visit Scotland. Ayr Corps was happy to welcome them for a weekend of praise and worship on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Preceding the programmes on Saturday and Sunday evenings a capacity congregation of Salvationists and friends gathering from all over Scotland created a happy atmosphere as they met and greeted one another.

The songsters (singing in perfect English) provided varied programmes which were both musically excellent and spiritually uplifting. Powerful words included in the opening song 'Our God is Great' proved to be a theme throughout the weekend. During the singing of 'Boundless' the Ayr Songster flag was waved by a songster from the visiting group. This was an emotional moment for many and also affirmation of the 'together we are one' slogan on the casual uniform worn by songsters.

The meeting on Sunday morning was led by Major Donna Evans. A message from scripture, singing of songsters, testimony, children's story and a contribution from Ayr Band playing 'Prayer of Vision' brought many blessings which were evident when seekers knelt at the Mercy Seat, these were indeed very precious moments.

A visit to Alloway gave the songsters an opportunity to see Robert Burns cottage and birthplace museum where they presented an exciting musical programme. This was very well received by all who listened.

In the early evening the Songsters led another musical festival entitled 'Celebration Praise'. They were joined by the Scotland Fellowship Band. Among music played by the band was the march 'Celebration.'

A Burt Bacharach number arranged by Joy Rouse and sung by the songsters is a message that the world needs to hear. If it were possible to wrap these words around the world during these troubled times, what a different world there would be.

“What the world needs now is love sweet love It's the only thing that there's just too little of.

What the world needs now is love sweet love, no not just for some but for everyone.” It was evident from the commencement of the weekend right through to an evening meal for songsters and Corps people at the end of the weekend that love for people and love of God was prevalent in the lives of the Amsterdam Staff Songsters.

*Christine Macdonald*

## Coffee and craft fair June 14th.

This idea was formed as a result of the ladies and their craft making skills, over the months they have both as a group and individuals worked to produce many interesting items for sale and so it was combined with creating a coffee and craft morning. The inclusion of other stalls in this event allowed more people to be involved and led by Iris Tomlinson the morning worked well producing a profit of over £400. The event was very well supported by Corps folk and members of the public. After wandering round the stalls they enjoyed a cuppa and some very tempting cakes. A special



thanks to the team in the kitchen for all their work. While some stayed in the hall a second team led by Bobby Irvine hit the streets talking to and collecting from the public. The response was as usual tremendous and resulted in collecting a further £400 so we had a combined total of £800 what an amazing day. Proving once again that God will supply if we just trust in him and try in his strength.

*John Beales*

## Food Parcels & Outreach

The work of the outreach team continues as strongly as ever. Our



work with the food parcels continues thanks to the generosity of individuals, Castlehill Church, Ailsa Hospital, Tesco & Asda supermarkets.

Due to this support we were able to provided seventy four crisis food parcels since mid - June. Our aim is not only to give out parcels but to encourage applicants to take advantage of one to one sessions on budgeting. In addition we are now providing help with home economics in the form of basic cooking lessons, using the ingredients supplied in our standard crisis food parcels.

*Agnes Smith*

**It started over 150 years ago**, was fought by many and survived despite the beatings the imprisonment and the hardship that our founders new converts had to deal with. They with God's help stuck to their course and all these years later we can celebrate Congress 2015. But what does it mean? The inspiration to form what became The Salvation Army started in the east end of London with the lowest of society, those who were not welcome into the established Church, those whose lives were poor and wretched. It was the day when women were second class and answerable to the men who kept most of them in their place as they saw it. The men worked and in so many cases drunk away their money. The women struggled to feed themselves and their children and when the drum of the Salvation Army was heard a new way to live became possible. Those early pioneers of a different faith took up their cross and chose to follow God.

Boundless gave all of us the opportunity to see just how big the Salvation Army is today; when we arrived at the O2 on Monday night we were amazed at the massive advertisement boards which told different aspects of the Salvation Army. On walking into the O2 for the first time all we could see was the large promotions banners that hung from the ceiling telling all where to go it was headed by the words Boundless 2015. The arena was quite when we got there and we were able to register without any problems then it was a quick tube ride and walk back to our apartment to look at the welcome package that all delegates were given. Looking out of our balcony door we could see the large financial power house buildings around us all lit up like Christmas trees and it seemed like they were welcoming us to something that was going to be special. The next morning as we boarded the tube we were surprised at the number of other people wearing uniform or carrying boundless bags. On the tube itself there were more and when we got off the tube there were even more it was like small streams coming together to form rivers and then a mighty ocean. That was what it was when we walked into the arena it was alive with people all with the same end to experience Boundless 2015. There were people from all over the world and so many said "Hi, where you from?" some we could tell were from the states others we were not so sure of until they told us.

We found the S.P&S stand and it was buzzing with people looking around, there was everything there that you could possibly need if you wanted it. We took a quick look around and left for the first session. We looked for our entrance spot and found it, when we walked into the main arena and looked at the stage and backdrop we were amazed the Band was playing we could hear them perfectly but from our position they were so small the large screens allowed us to have a closer look at them as they welcomed us to Boundless 2015.

This first session was titled 'A Joyful Army'. The whole assembly had been stirred up by the playing of the Staff Band, the playing of the Timbrel's and the singing of the Vasa choir but we became calm as we watched a video of the Generals Dream, and the whole building erupted when General Andre Cox and his wife walked into the arena smiling and waving to everyone. As we all shared in the first song "O thou God of every nation" It felt so good to be one voice among thousands. Prayers and a Bible reading followed it was the call of Isaiah as if to call us all together. Then one by one the flags from all over the world were brought in. The flags that stood up and said we are Gods flags and will stand true to our purpose, it was breath taking and it showed us all that we are certainly part of a worldwide army. A Little later the session concluded with a spirit filled song 'We are marching' and left us all in no doubt that we were now at Boundless 2015.

*John Beales - to be concluded next edition*



Prayer request forms are located in the side entrance foyer.  
Please place completed forms in prayer box.

**Hub Café**  
Open 11am – 2pm  
Monday to Friday



### Weekly Activities

#### Monday

9.30am Rainbow Tots  
Baby & Toddler Group  
Recommences 24<sup>th</sup> August  
2pm Home League (ladies meeting)  
7pm Songster Practice  
8pm Band Practice

#### Wednesday

7.30pm  
Ladies Fellowship  
Recommences 19<sup>th</sup> August

#### 2pm

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 55Plus  
Club £2 includes afternoon tea  
Recommences 2<sup>nd</sup> September

#### Thursday

7.30pm Gospel Choir  
Winter session starts 17<sup>th</sup> September

#### Sunday

10.15am Prayer Meeting Room 1  
10.45am Family Service  
6pm Bible Study Room 1  
Recommences 23<sup>rd</sup> August

### Coming Events

#### August 19<sup>th</sup>

Ladies Fellowship games night against  
Men's Fellowship

#### October 24<sup>th</sup>

Coffee Morning  
Organised by Ladies Fellowship

#### December 6<sup>th</sup>

Gospel Choir Christmas Concert 6pm  
Castlehill Church

### Church Contact Details

59 John Street Ayr KA80BS

Tel.01292 269286

[ayr@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:ayr@salvationarmy.org.uk)

[www.ayrcommunitychurch.com](http://www.ayrcommunitychurch.com)