

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



## Resource for Leaders 2021

**'What comes next could be marvellous!'**



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
Psalm 92:14

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### Contents Page

Page 3	Introduction
Page 4	Service Plan
Page 5	Sermon Outline
Page 8	All Age Activity
Page 9	Psalm 139
Page 10	Benediction
Page 11	Creative Prayer Ideas
Page 12	Telephone-based Ministry
Page 13	Cafe Chat Ministry
Page 14	OPM Team Details



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES



## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE

### INTRODUCTION TO THE RESOURCE

Welcome to this Older People's Ministries Resource for 2021 which has been created to help you celebrate your Older People around the 1st October which is the date set aside for The United Nations International Day of Older Persons. Around the world the celebration of age is taking place and the Salvation Army want to be part of this celebration in our Corps & Centres around the United Kingdom & Ireland Territory.

The theme for this year's resource is 'What comes next could be marvellous!'

As a Team we reflected on the pandemic and wanted to encourage our older people to see that what comes next after the pandemic could be good, even if somewhat different. Each of us are on our own personal journey of ageing but this does not diminish the fact that with age comes wisdom and often new opportunities. This resource focuses on the 'what comes next' for all of us and the Sunday Service Resources have been written with an All Age focus in mind.

We pray that the older people of the United Kingdom & Ireland Territory will feel valued and celebrated as it is an ideal opportunity, if possible, to gather people in celebrating growing older which is contrary to what society often makes us believe.

You will find an introduction to The International Day of Older People by Andrew Wileman, Assistant Director for Older People's Ministries and a video of the sermon given by Ali Thornton-Dean, Outreach Mission Partner. (Both of these can be accessed via YouTube) The resource includes Cafe Style small group discussion cards which could be used with a small group of older people in a local cafe, creative prayer ideas, telephone based ministry, sermon outline and service plan. We pray that some or all of this resource will help support your mission for older people.

Let's grow older together - what comes next could be marvellous!

God bless

The Older People's Ministries Team



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
**Psalms 92:14**

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### SUNDAY SERVICE MEETING PLAN

### THEME - WHAT COMES NEXT COULD BE MARVELLOUS!

Welcome & Explanation of what the International Day of Older People is all about

**Song** – I stand amazed in the presence    Salvation Army Song Book Number 466  
(Alternative version : Chris Sligh 'How marvelous' Youtube - <https://youtu.be/CVyeV5irvqc>)

**Bible Reading** – Psalm 139:1-16 (The Message Version) – See attached sheet

#### Prayer

**All Age Activity** – What comes next? – See attached resource

**Song** – 'Our God is a great big God' Youtube – <https://youtu.be/q8fcpShP19c>

**Video** – 'That's my King' Youtube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCuRKE707MM>

**Sermon** – 'You are a marvellous creation!'

**Response & Prayer Song** – 'I'm in his hands'    Salvation Army Songbook 848

**Song** – 'My Lighthouse' by Rend Collection Youtube – <https://youtu.be/itiB52mVJ9Y>

**United Benediction** – See attached resource



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### SERMON OUTLINE

### WHAT COMES NEXT COULD BE A MARVELLOUS CREATION!

YOU WILL NEED A LARGE BAR OF CADBURY'S MARVELLOUS CREATION CHOCOLATE BAR

#### Introduction

*(IN A LOUD THEATRICAL RINGMASTER VOICE)*

'Roll up! Roll up! Marvellous Creations are in town!'

Have you heard this before? Let me continue... 'A milk chocolate bar filled with jellies, popping candy and cocoa candy shells isn't exactly ordinary. Luckily they're far from ordinary here at Joyville!'



Clever advertising by Cadbury and they even commend the chocolate bar to people by saying that it brings 'a new opportunity to share even more joyous family moments together!' Wow, don't we all want a bit of that?

Well our Bible reading today reminded us that we are all marvellous creations. Let's just remind ourselves of verses 13-16 from Psalm 139.

'Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breath-taking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation!

You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body;  
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.'

Amen!



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
**Psalm 92:14**

Did you hear that? You are marvellously made! We are all marvellous creations of a breath-taking God.

### **Marvellous Creations are in Town!**

We are a community of believers, made up of different ages, from different backgrounds and possibly with different thoughts and beliefs, yet what joins us together is our Creator God. The scripture reminds us that all the stages of our lives were spread out before God even before one day came to be. So whatever age we find ourselves today, God already knew that we were going to be this age on this day in history. As marvellous creations of a breath-taking God we need to also acknowledge that what comes next in our lives has the potential to be marvellous. We find ourselves leaving the Pandemic behind (we hope) and moving into a new world, with lessons learnt, new thoughts in place, new ways of working and a thankfulness for those who have worked to keep the world of health and well-being turning. We are thankful for the vaccine and look to a new tomorrow with open eyes. You know, what comes next could be marvellous because rather than taking every new day for granted we can now turn our attention to the beauty of a new day and say 'Okay God, what comes next in this post-pandemic world could actually be marvellous!'

Some of us will have recently moved into a new school year, new college or university. Some of us may have moved into new jobs, or even a place of not working or retirement. Often people think that retirement is a time to sit back and do nothing, yet whilst there is definitely a joy that comes to many from not having to get up at a certain time or be in a certain place as work once required, it would be such a shame if the gifts, wisdom and skills we have acquired along the way weren't used in some way. While we have life and breath within us surely we need to say 'what comes next could be marvellous'. So how are you going to make that happen? Is it time to take a step back, take a breath and see where God is leading those of us in retirement perhaps into a new adventure?

Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God has plans for us and these are not age limiting! His plans are to prosper us, not to harm us and these plans will give us a future. Wow. No matter our age, we have a future! What comes next could be marvellous, so let's not fear but grasp hold of new opportunities with both hands.

### **Filled to the brim!**

If we think back to our Chocolate Bar we hear how it is 'filled with jellies/popping candy and cocoa candies'. What are you filled with? Just take a moment to think. Are you filled with things that bring joy and a positive outlook or are you filled with bitterness which may bring a negative view? We are called to be 'Spirit filled'. So as a community of marvellous creations in this town we need to be filled with God's Holy Spirit so that we can out-pour into the community. Out-pour with love, compassion, hope, joy and everything that says to others 'This is for you too!'

The Salvation Army's Vision Statement states that 'As disciples of Jesus Christ, we will be a Spirit-filled, radical, growing movement, with a burning desire to lead people into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, actively serve the community, and fight for social justice.'

We can only serve others when we are Spirit filled. Chocolate is fantastic, many of us love it, it has a few health benefits too if eaten in moderation and it most certainly seems to lift people's spirits. However, chocolate will never help us to fully reach other people, actively serving the community and fighting for social justice. No, what we need is to be Spirit Filled by the infilling of God's Holy Spirit, filling us up to the brim so that we can move forward into our 'what's next' moments knowing and trusting God to lead us.



## **Far From Ordinary!**

Cadbury reminded us that their chocolate bar is 'far from ordinary – and it comes from Joyville!' Well, that may be the case but there is real lasting joy that is only found in Jesus and because of his life, death and resurrection power we don't live ordinary lives, now and into eternity. We live extraordinary lives in the saving power of Jesus! You want to hear something extraordinary about eternity? Listen to this...

'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.' (Revelation 21:4)

Wow what comes next after this life is far from ordinary! You see we may look upon death as a terrible thing, yet what scripture promises is absolutely marvellous. A time when we see Jesus, a time when he wipes away our tears, a time when there is no more physical pain in our bodies, no matter how old we are, a time when our sorrow is turned into joy! We call it heaven not Joyville, but heaven surely must be filled with constant resounding joy and it's waiting for each one of us. You see what comes next after this life will be marvellous!

## **Conclusion**

Say this after me... 'I AM A MARVELLOUS CREATION!' (Get the congregation to repeat it if necessary as an individual but united statement of praise.)

From the moment you were created in your mother's womb until and beyond the day we meet with and live with God in eternity we have been created for good things, good works and we are God's handiwork. Ephesians 2:10 says 'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' Again, there is no age range or limit on this statement. There is no place for age discrimination on either side of the fence, whether young or old or somewhere in the middle, as we are all God's handiwork, marvellous creations, created to do good works.

What is it that God has planned for you next? How can you fulfil your calling as a marvellous creation to do what God has planned for you? Maybe it's time to place your life in God's hands once again saying: 'whatever the future holds, I'm in your hands, breath-taking God.'

(Use the prayer song 'I'm in his hands' as a time of response. - Salvation Army Song Book No. 848)

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### ALL AGE ACTIVITY

#### THEME - WHAT COMES NEXT?!

#### (ENCOURAGE ANY CHILDREN PRESENT TO HELP YOU)

Show the Youtube Clip below and pause after the goal is scored. Then ask the children 'what do you think happens next?' Let as many as possible tell everyone what they think might happen. Then continue to the clip to see if they're correct. (The footballer runs to kiss his wife!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9P5jSSAQLc>



Ask the children 'was you expecting that?'

Then ask the children what's happening next in their lives. Football match, dancing show, something exciting at school, Christmas coming, etc...

#### Script to formulate thoughts....

'Sometimes we think we know what's going to happen and then something changes and surprises us. We might be worried about moving into a new class at school, or maybe it's been hard starting high school, college or even university but all of these changes mean that our world opens up more bit by bit and year by year. We learn new things, experience new things and often things are even better than we imagined. So if you are ever worried about what might happen next remember, you may just be surprised and most importantly whatever happens, God has a plan for you and for me.

In the Bible God promises to help us with our plans and our 'what next'.

We hear this promise in Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

So, no matter how young or old we may be, let's remember that our 'what comes next' could be marvellous'!

#### SHARE SOME CADBURY 'MARVELLOUS CREATION' CHOCOLATE BARS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED.



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
**Psalm 92:14**



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### PSALM 139:1-16 (THE MESSAGE VERSION)

God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand.

I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.

You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight.

You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.

I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too -  
your reassuring presence, coming and going.

This is too much, too wonderful - I can't take it all in!

Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight?

If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there!

If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, you'd find me in a minute -  
you're already there waiting!

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same  
to you.

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb.

I thank you, High God - you're breath taking! Body and soul, I am marvellously made!

I worship in adoration - what a creation!

You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was  
made,

bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life  
were spread out before you, the days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### UNITED BENEDICTION

### WHAT COMES NEXT LORD...

Lord God,

As I move towards my 'what's next' I place myself into your hands. I ask you to bless me with your guidance, lead me by your Holy Spirit's presence and show me the path you want me to take as I seek your wisdom.

Take away the fear of 'what if'. Remove the 'buts' that echo in my mind and give me a clear path to follow into the future knowing that you are always with me and will never leave me.

I commit my life into your hands and trust you for what's next in my life, believing that what comes next could be marvellous!

Amen.

This prayer can be shared on PowerPoint at the end of the service or photocopied and given out to use)

For other Prayer Resources please see the 'Creative Prayer' Resource Page attached.



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
**Psalm 92:14**

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### CREATIVE PRAYER IDEAS WHAT COMES NEXT FOR YOU & ME

#### PRAYER IDEA 1 - THANKFUL & TRUSTING

**'We'll praise you for all that is past and trust you for all that's to come.'**

**You will need: Pens/Paper/Songbooks**

**Read or print the words of Song 1041 from the Salvation Army Song Book.**

**You might find it helpful to have some quiet music playing in the background while people take part in this act of prayer and worship.**

**Ask people to write their thanksgiving on pieces of paper for blessings of the past. Place these where they can be seen and build an area of thanksgiving. This might be hanging these prayers on a prayer tree, or laying them on the mercy seat or even pinning them to a notice board or wall.**

**Then on separate pieces of paper ask people to write their own personal prayer of trust to God for what lies ahead in the future. Suggest that people take these home with them to continue trusting and praying through. Perhaps if people wanted to share these prayers in two's or three's this could be a way of getting people to pray for one another if they felt comfortable.**

#### PRAYER IDEA 2 - CROSSING THE DIVIDE

**(You will need Small Balls/Pens & Cellotape)**

**Gather some of your older people and younger people together. Allow the older people five minutes each to share something of their life from when they were younger. Then ask the younger people to share what's happening in their life at the moment. Ask everyone to write down something they would like to pray for and attach these to small balls (ballpool balls work well and are brightly coloured which makes the prayer activity more fun.)**

**Ask everyone to place their ball into a bucket and then pass these round the group with everyone taking out a ball. (If they choose their own ball they need to choose another one!)**

**Then ask everyone to be silent and pray for the person on their ball and their prayer request.**

**When everyone has had time to do this, place the balls back into the bucket and then choose someone who is happy and willing to pray over the whole group.**



**Older  
People's  
Ministries**

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'  
Psalm 92:14**

# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES



## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE

### TELEPHONE BASED MINISTRY GUIDANCE! THIS TRULY COULD BE MARVELLOUS!

To set up a Lifesize Telephone Group number, follow the instructions on the attached Resource Sheet 'Instructions on Setting Up a Lifesize Age to Age to Group'. We suggest that telephone Groups work well using the Older People's Ministries Resource 'Age to Age' which could be used as a follow on from the International Day of Older People's Telephone Based Ministry Resource. Many Corps have found telephone based ministry groups invaluable during the Pandemic and it is a great way of keeping in touch with those who are not always able to make it into the Corps building.

Choose a day and time suitable for all those who want to participate. We suggest no more than 6 on a call at any one time otherwise this can become quite confusing when trying to listen to lots of different voices during discussion time.

Obviously, the instructions to set up the Telephone Based Ministry Group are the same no matter what resource material you use!

Please ensure that the participants are aware that they have to simply do three things:-

1. Dial the telephone number
2. Key in the Extension followed by the # sign
3. Key in the Passcode followed by the # sign

The participants will then hear the words 'joining in the meeting'. Tell them not to panic if they don't hear this as they may be the first one to join the call.



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### CAFE CHAT SMALL GROUP IDEAS

#### THEME - WHAT COMES NEXT COULD BE MARVELLOUS!

Print and cut out the Cafe Chat Questions. (See Attached File)

(If possible laminate them so they can be used again with others groups)

At least one person to have a Bible to look up the Bible Quotes to enhance the group discussion.

Invite small groups to gather either in a local cafe, in someone's home or even a small group within the Salvation Army hall.

Cafe Chat is a great way of outreaching to friends and family as it is a non-threatening way of evangelism and the questions have been created in such a way that whether Christian or non-Christian, people can enter into a group discussion around a cup of coffee with friends.

No matter our age, many people love the opportunity to chat and these small Cafe Chat Groups are a great way of supporting friendship building, inclusion and allowing people time to consider questions for themselves and listen to other's views and thoughts.

We hope this simple resource will help support your ministry with older people.



# OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE



### OLDER PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES TEAM UKI TERRITORY

The Salvation Army Older People's Ministries team is here to support Corps and Communities in understanding, reaching and meeting the needs of older people. This recognises the changing demographic of the UKI and that people are now living longer than ever before.

**For further support, advice and resources please contact:**

Andrew Wileman, Assistant Director - Older People's Ministries  
[andrew.wileman@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:andrew.wileman@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Ali Thornton-Dean, Outreach Mission Partner - Older People's Ministries  
[ali.thornton-dean@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:ali.thornton-dean@salvationarmy.org.uk)

The International Day of Older People's Resource is produced by The Salvation Army's Older People's Ministries Team in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, 2021.

The Salvation Army is a church and registered charity in England (214779), Wales (214779), Scotland (SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6599).

Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom and Ireland: Commissioner Anthony Cotterill



Older  
People's  
Ministries

**'They shall still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.'**  
**Psalm 92:14**