

# Belonging and Believing: The Big Conversation



1–3 March 2024

[salvationist.org.uk/bigconversation2024](https://salvationist.org.uk/bigconversation2024)

# Welcome!

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this significant time of worship, prayer and conversation. We will be exploring how the UK and Ireland Territory can shape exciting discipleship, with a radical vision of belonging, committing and serving the Kingdom of God.

Following the survey and facilitated conversations that took place in the autumn of 2023, this weekend offers further opportunities for the Membership Working Group to listen to a diverse range of perspectives to help inform their recommendations, which will go to territorial leadership this summer.

We want this weekend to offer a safe space where people can express different views with honesty and sensitivity, respect and kindness, especially when feelings are strong.

This isn't easy so, in recognition of this, there will be opportunity over the weekend to lament the times when we have got this wrong and to hear from God about how we can do better. We encourage you to pray bold prayers, to continue to share what God is laying on your heart, and to be mindful when you are listening to and speaking with others.

Let us step out in faith and follow God's lead as we strive to see fullness of life for all with Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

**Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe**  
Secretary for Mission



**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.**

Ephesians 2:19

# Timetable

## Prayer ministry and pastoral support

A prayer team is available throughout the weekend for prayer ministry. The wider team will also offer pastoral support if you need someone to talk to.

## Children and youth

Sessions for 7 to 11-year-olds are timetabled on Saturday and Sunday. A crèche for 2 to 6-year-olds will run in parallel to these sessions.

Young people who are 12+ are encouraged to attend the main sessions, and members of the Children and Youth team will be available throughout the weekend to support.

## Friday

Time	Event	Location	Additional info	Children's programme
From 3pm	Arrival	Radcliffe reception		
6pm	Dinner	Radcliffe dining room		
8pm	Session 1: Welcome and Worship	The Slate	Host: Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe  Speaker: Commissioner Paul Main	While there is no formal evening programme for children, there are family-friendly spaces in the venue. Parents and guardians will need to supervise their children.

## Saturday (continued on next page)

Time	Event	Location	Additional info	Children's programme
7-9am	Breakfast	Radcliffe dining room		
9am	Session 2: Belonging and Living with Difference	The Slate	Prayers: Lizzy Thornton-Dean  Speaker: Lieut-Colonel (Dr) Karen Shakespeare	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2

# Saturday

Time	Event	Location	Additional info	Children's programme
10am	Session 3: The Salvation Army and the Church	The Slate	Speaker: Major Stephen Oliver  Responder: Lieutenant Nazia Yousaf	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2
11am	Coffee	The Slate		
11.30am	Session 4: Who Are These Salvationists?	The Slate	Table discussions facilitated by Lieut-Colonel Drew McCombe	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2
12.30pm	Lunch	Radcliffe dining room		
2pm	Session 5: Electives	To be confirmed on arrival	See page 5	The Big Build (family-friendly elective): Space 2
3pm	Coffee	The Slate		
3.15pm	Session 6: Electives	To be confirmed on arrival	See page 5	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2
4.30pm	Session 7: Human Sexuality: An International Salvation Army Perspective	The Slate	Speaker: Colonel Julie Forrest (International Liaison Officer for Dialogue on Human Sexuality)	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2
5.30pm	Free time			
6pm	Dinner	Radcliffe dining room		
7.30pm	Session 8: Evening Prayer and Worship	The Slate	Hosts: Nik King, Majors Ann and Donald Montgomery and Lyndall Bywater	While there is no formal evening programme for children, there are family-friendly spaces in the venue. Parents and guardians will need to supervise their children.

# Sunday

Time	Event	Location	Additional info	Children's programme
7–9am	Breakfast	Radcliffe dining room		
9am	Session 9: Taking Stock	The Slate	9am: Listening to our young people with Lieutenants Jonny and Kat Whitmore	All ages together in The Slate
			10am: Panel conversation and leadership Q&A	Crèche: Space 1 Children: Space 2
11am	Coffee	The Slate		
11.30am	Whole Church Worship	The Slate	Hosts: Family Ministries	All ages together in The Slate
12.30pm	Lunch	Radcliffe dining room	For those who have booked	
	Departure	Radcliffe reception		

# Electives

Title	Host
Jesus and Discipleship	Captain Naomi Clifton
Membership and the Body of Christ	Lieutenant Christopher Button
Callings and Covenants: Part 1 – What's Essential for Every Disciple?	Major Nick Coke
Callings and Covenants: Part 2 – Membership as a Rule of Life?	Major Steve Dutfield
The Salvation Army and Belonging: What It Means to Me	Bethany Gibson
Our Vision, Mission and Values	Major Kerry Coke
The Big Build (2–3pm only)	Children and Youth Department