

Roundup



NEWSLETTER OF THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT OF THE CHURCH LADS' AND CHURCH GIRLS' BRIGADE

Colonel's Comment

DEAR colleagues, friends and members. I do hope you and your families are staying safe and making sure you keep out of the way of this virus. In all my years I cannot think of anything that has caused so much disruption to normal family, work AND our social lives. The petrol crisis in the 70's stopped us going too far but at least we weren't confined to our homes to such an extent. The changes to our normal lives are immense so I hope you are all staying busy and occupied if you're at home and to those involved in keeping the NHS going, involved in the supply of medicines and food we are, and will be, eternally grateful. Keep up the good work, but above all, stay safe.

When you look at life only two weeks ago and saw what was happening all around our world it was unimaginable that it would reach such proportions here in Manchester. The change, and I don't think its reached it's full potential yet, has impacted every part of our lives. Those who have served in our organisation for a long time will feel the loss of that weekly routine and the saddened of not being able to work with our young people, with friends of many years as a very painful blow, You don't really miss something until it is not there!

Each of us needs to use the time to keep in contact with our members and leaders and if you can give them things to do so the Brigade doesn't become a distant memory that can only help. We need to be ready to pick up where we left off and reinstate our Company nights into their calendars before they find anything else. My own view, which will depend on how quickly you will get access to premises and meeting venues, is that we should not delay – be on the starting blocks and ready to restart. We also need to keep our teams of Leaders and Helpers together and primed. They need your encouragement, to be involved in the preparation and have their ideas on the table ready to deploy. Don't leave it until we get the all clear, prepare now whilst you've got time. Share your ideas with other Brigade leaders, there are plenty of posts on Facebook to fill the imagination. Time is something that we only get once so use it wisely.

One of the more important disappointments for me is that we look like, as a Christian Organisation in our communities and Churches, we are not going to be able to celebrate Easter as a worshipping community. It is the most important event in the Christian calendar so be inventive, don't let it pass without marking the event as we would normally do in our Companies, activities and Churches. Lent is a time of preparation so "Be prepared" (sorry to borrow that slogan) and let's be ready to "Fight the good Fight"!

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Other News...

Regimental Training

Is your training up to date?

Your Company needs leaders with a Food Hygiene certificate. If yours is out of date, renew it while you've got time. Licences can be bought from NHQ to take it on-line.

You should undertake Safeguarding Training every three years. If yours is out of date, renew it while you've got time. <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> undertake course C1.

News from National HQ

You will be aware that Zoe is still on maternity leave at the moment. We thank the Lord that Seth has made such wonderful progress after his illness soon after being born and ask that you continue to hold him, Zoe, Alan and Ella in your prayers.

As a consequence Perry and Helen are holding the NHQ fort by working from home at the moment so be patient and help them as much as you can.

Regimental Parade

You will know from the previous Roundup that we were looking at an earlier date for our Regimental Parade for this year. We were preparing for a date in early July but as you will appreciate this will not now be possible. We will need to re-assess our plans and see what is available at St Ann's before committing any dates to the discussion.

What is clear, is that the Leaders would like to involve everyone in the service and parade this year. We will be asking each Battalion to lead part of the service involving as many youngsters as possible to make it as inclusive as we can. Use your time off to get your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas.

I'd love to hear them all.

Regimental Camp 2020

It is with a great deal of regret, a decision which was extremely hard to make, that we have decided to cancel this year's Manchester Regimental Camp in Aberfoyle, Scotland. This will be the first time in over 30 years that there hasn't been a Regimental Camp but the leaders are all committed to taking us back to The Dounans Centre next year for an even bigger and better camp. The uncertain timescales of the current restrictions meant that we have no way of assessing whether we will be left with enough time to plan and implement a camp once the get the all clear. We also considered the financial implications on families whose income may be severely impacted by the current restrictions and the position they would be in with some able to afford to go while others could not. We felt it would be fair to everyone to cancel early and remove the uncertainty. Sorry, we know how much you all enjoy camp, as we, the leaders do.