



Christian Ambulance Association



As Spring brings new growth and a fresh start, I'm praying this will be a time of us daring to believe we are past the worst of COVID-19 in the UK at least. It has been truly awful though. Many of us have lost someone to this dreadful disease and for some this is happening right now. Too many have had to grieve alone. Numerous ambulance colleagues are weary from supporting the acutely unwell and their fearful family, whilst dealing with their own loss. It's ok to struggle, to feel the loss of a loved one or to share the pain of a friend or colleague or patient. When Jesus lost his friend Lazarus and saw how broken-hearted his family were, he wept (John 11:35.) It's normal to find this hard. Dealing with the various stages of lock-down for a year has impacted us all. So, as we look out for one-another and for our colleagues, I for one won't be doing that falsely-positive thing.

But, whilst the Bible is realistic about pain and loss, it's also optimistic about the future. And God is still God. The eternity He promised hasn't changed and, for now, we're on this earth to have a relationship with Him, to communicate His love to others and to glorify Him in all that we do. As we hope for a future with restrictions gradually reducing, what can we in our regional CAA groups do to support one-another and positively impact those around us together? You could pray together, and you should! You could also give some time, skill, money or something specifically needed by a good local cause inside the ambulance service or in the wider community? Imagine the positive impact something like that could have on your colleagues, looking to haul themselves up and out of this quagmire. Maybe your colleagues would want to join in? Another great crew room conversation..?



Simon King CAA Chair

Issue 5
March 2021

The Christian Ambulance Association is a charity supporting Christians in the Ambulance Service run by Christians in the ambulance service.



Copyright ©2020 caauk
Christian Ambulance Association

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales

No: 1190610
Registered Address:
The Bridge, Whitefriars Church,
Whitefriars Junior School
Boughton Drive,
Rushden,
Northamptonshire,
NN10 9HX



ESiP
2021



Ben
Miller



After Months of Social Distancing...

We'd LOVE to Host a Blue Light Praise & Worship Night

But we Need Your Help...

"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." [Revelation 15:4]

In 2019, a team from CAA attended the Emergency Services Show at the Birmingham NEC. This was a big first-step for us! Never before had we been able to reach so many people in such a short space of time, with Ambulance staff from across the UK descending on the event, and the chance for us to offer to spread the word about CAA with those we met. As a team, we came away feeling God's peace really clearly about maximising the opportunities we were given, and in fact that He was opening so many more (and different) doors for us than we could ever have managed alone! Unfortunately ESS 2020 was postponed - like most things! - due to the pandemic, and is now re-scheduled for September this year. After listening to feedback from those who visited us at ESS 2019, the suggestion was made about hosting a blue-light Praise & Worship night between the two days of the event. So that's what we'd love to do!

As God continues to work in and through us as a voluntary organisation in the Ambulance Sector, we're convinced now more than ever that Christ-centred community matters... especially in the work place!

"Emergency Services in Praise" (ESiP) is an opportunity to gather Christian colleagues from all of our blue light partners for a night of praising God together. After an incredibly demanding and painful year for many, we're really praying that ESiP will be a welcomed opportunity to share fellowship after months of social-distancing, and bring refreshment to our Blue Light Family. We're also really passionate about an opportunity to give God all the glory for meeting us in the highs and lows of all we've faced, acknowledging His goodness and grace to us all... BUT... ***we're really in need of some support from members to make this event happen!****

As a voluntary organisation, most of us within the CAA work full-time, and we're so aware that time with family/ friends outside of work is precious... even more so as Lockdown begins to lift! Any time that you're able to offer to help us make this event possible - whether that's 2 hours p/month, or 2 hours p/week - we would love to hear from you! With a decent sized planning team, the preparations become so much more manageable between us.

The deadline we're setting to decide whether or not this event goes ahead is Saturday 2nd April 2021

If you're able to help join our Event team, please email london@caauk.org

From North of the Border!



**Cameron
Robertson**

**Regional
Coordinator
Scotland**



A Message of Hope this Easter

It's coming close to a year since Simon our Chairman, asked me to be the regional lead for Scotland or for us, a country lead as we are quite unique up here as we have a service that covers the whole country!

I thought I better get my finger out and write a message to you all and introduce your colleagues and myself from north of the border. We have Yvonne who is a Paramedic, George who is a Technician, Alec too who all work for the Scottish Ambulance Service and we have myself who unfortunately don't work for the Service yet. I'm hoping in the next couple years to go to university to train as a paramedic but just now, I work for private ambulance companies through the UK as an Event Medic and I really enjoy it.

I would like to give you a message of hope this Easter from Rev Michele Lees from Echuca Moama Uniting Church which really comforted me last year.

"Easter time is usually a time of getting together and celebrating, but with the current social distancing restrictions placed on us, this is not a possibility. Basically, we are to stay at home. So, does that mean we cannot celebrate Easter?"

No, we can celebrate Easter if we consider the nature of Easter. It is essentially about new life, symbolised in the Easter egg, the rabbit a prolific breeder, and the butterfly.

These symbols direct us to the Christian story of Easter, the new life which is given to us following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Christian Easter story can be found in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Bible.

They share the similarities of Easter Day being on the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath, a woman or women going to an empty tomb, the presence of an angel or angels, and the directive to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive.

Matthew's Gospel differs in the emphasis on the presence of God in the Easter event.

This should not surprise us as the Gospel of Matthew begins and ends with the assurance that God is with us, in the birth of Jesus called Emmanuel and translated 'God is with us', through to the ascension of Jesus where Jesus tells his disciples, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

On Easter Day, Resurrection Sunday, Matthew describes God's presence in the occurrence of an earthquake, an Angel of the Lord appearing like lightning descending from heaven to earth and rolling back the stone of the tomb to show the secured tomb is now empty, and the guards of the tomb shaking and becoming like dead men.

‘We can still celebrate Easter while we are under COVID-19 restrictions because Easter gives us the good news that Jesus is alive, and his living Spirit is with us giving us hope and love in our troubled world.’



Jesus, who was dead, has risen from death and is alive again in a new way. Jesus’ resurrection was not a mere resuscitation, but a transformation into a new sort of physicality, a body that somehow lives in earth and heaven simultaneously.

It is the beginning of a new creation which will only be complete when heaven and earth are fully married.

Matthew’s Easter story shows that Jesus is with us after his death by recording that Mary and the other Mary meet Jesus outside the tomb, speak with him, and are empowered to go and tell other disciples.

At the time of writing, Matthew’s community was involved in the mission of telling the good news about Jesus, doing so in the power of Jesus’ Spirit following his resurrection.

Matthew’s Easter story reminds us that God is with us. We, like the women at the tomb, are to go and tell others the good news that Jesus is alive, God is with us.

We can still celebrate Easter while we are under COVID-19 restrictions because Easter gives us the good news that Jesus is alive, and his living Spirit is with us giving us hope and love in our troubled world.”

My every blessing to you

Cammy

If you would like to know more about CAA in Scotland or to get involved please contact us at scotland@caauk.org

Jesus said

“I am with you for only a short time and then I am going to the one who sent me”

John 7 v33





**Melvyn
Hunter**

**Whitefriars
Church**



Whitefriars Church

Would your church be interested in supporting us?

**Recently our members were described as being
'on the front of the front line!'**

Whitefriars Church in Rushden Northamptonshire supports the Christian Ambulance Association. Whitefriars is a local church with a heart for supporting the community and for supporting Christians as they work on the 'front line'.

Whitefriars is part of the Church of England. We have no church building of our own, meeting in a local school which we work closely with during the week. We began as a church plant from Rushden St. Mary in 1991 including a summer holiday club and a weekly Sunday club for children not involved in any other church. Holiday club in 1992 had so many parents helping that it felt they were almost already part of Whitefriars and the decision was made to open the Sunday morning up to all ages.

By 1997, the congregation having continued to grow, the Diocese of Peterborough decided that Whitefriars was sufficiently well-founded to become an independent church in its own right.

The heart of Whitefriars Church has always been to the local community and to the youth but with links to the wider national and international communities (for example, we have links with churches and schools in Kenya). At the start of each year, 10% of the giving from the previous year is allocated to the support of mission in other areas. Some of this is used for local work within the town, some to other charities within the UK and some to our links overseas. All our links are regularly remembered in our prayers and many provide us with updates on the work that they are doing.

The Christian Ambulance Association is one of those 'missions'. We decided that this was a good group to support since we have a number of members of the congregation involved in the ambulance service, the NHS and other areas of health care, and those not directly involved very much appreciate the work done by and the stress under which these workers function every day. We want to support believers as they live out their faith in this important work and to see God glorified as they positively impact their colleagues and the communities they serve.

Melvyn Hunter

Chair

Mission Giving Committee

whitefriarschurch.org.uk

**Would your church be interesting in supporting us?
Please contact us for a discussion as we would love to link
up, supporting our communities.**

contact@caauk.org

**Volunteering
Opportunities:
We Need
Your Help!**



**...and from our
Treasurer**



**Andrew
Buchanan**



We Need Your Help!

Social Media, Newsletter, Prayer Diary, Emergency Services Show, Emergency Services in Praise... these are some of the key areas that we need your help with please. There is still a very real need for the workload to be shared. Therefore, if you are able to give a little of your time, then please consider prayerfully whether you would be able to help out to lead or support as part of a team to alleviate the pressure on those currently wearing several hats. For a conversation about how you could help, please contact us.

CAA Volunteers - Thank You.

Since our last newsletter in December, a number of key positions have been filled and we thank God for those who have volunteered to take on these roles: Safeguarding Lead, Members and Regional Coordinators Support Lead, East Regional Coordinator, North East Regional Coordinator, Yorkshire Regional Coordinator...

..but we really do need more people to help out in the regions and centrally. Can you help us?

contact@cauk.org

Thank You!

Thank you to those who have donated directly to our new 'CAF' account or via give.net as well as those who have made a commitment to give monthly which enables us, not only to claim Gift Aid on your behalf but also, to plan financially as our predicted expenditure can remain in line with our income.

This has enabled us to push forward on a number of initiatives including, developing and maintaining the new website, a membership database and planning for the Emergency Services Show (ESS2021) and Emergency Services in Praise (ESiP).

We will also be reviewing how we can support our Regional Coordinators by providing financial support for members through those regions. I would like to thank personally those who have supported CAA and through careful administration of that which we have been entrusted, then we will honour that requirement to be good stewards as we use these donations wisely.

Before I close, can I leave you with a few thoughts. Can you imagine just what we can achieve not only for the benefit of our own members but also for the public in which we live and serve, if every member committed to setting up a regular £5.00 commitment per month—Just 1-click on our 'Support Us' square...

Christian Ambulance Association

Sort Code **40 - 52 - 40** : Account Number **00033975**

Romans 10:17
“So faith comes
from hearing,
and hearing
through the
word of Christ.”



Albert
Churchouse

Regional
Coordinator

East



Regional Update—East

The past few months have been some of the most unprecedented times for all of us, in March last year I moved home to Cambridge from Dorset, just as the Pandemic came sweeping in. Since then, things have been so strange, No meeting outside, lots of zoom calls and above all, a lack of interaction with the outside world. However, over this time, I have become the Regional Coordinator in the East and leading on engaging within EEAST for CAA. Last year, I took over as area lead for Cambridgeshire and over the past few months, there has been an abundance of both blessings and works that show the honest truthful power of Christ. Over 80 churches in Cambridgeshire have now been told about us and connections between different denominations has also begun. Posters of our network are going up across EEAST stations with more being sent around to private contractors too and it got me thinking about how Christ moves in us and around us.

It has been an extremely heart-warming time to see how in such cut-off times, CAA has been able to reach so many people and reach far and wide with the use of online technology and zoom meetings. I myself have found daily meditation sessions an incredible connectivity to Christ in a time where I have not been able to find a new church to settle in due to the pandemic. It was the theme over the past month to focus on how we can move into Christ more and lean into that faith to further his Kingdom. The verse that kept creeping up being Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

What a powerful truth, that through hearing the word comes faith, a truth we all know to be true but, in its simplicity, comes power and strength. This has been a guidance for me going forward, that in my worry and doubt and feelings of being alone, away from friends and family I can turn to the word and others in faith which helps me to be held close to him.

I wish to end on the note that I took from this verse also, which is that for CAA to truly help others, we must be made known about. Looking forward, I cannot wait to see God move in this place to support the family of Christ for those who work in the ambulance service. From this will come the ability to discuss faith as a community and read the word that in turn gives us strength, hope and love.

God Bless

Albert

east@caauk.org

‘I would love for you to keep our students within your daily prayers.’



Dan Beattie

**CAA
Student
Lead**



Student Lead Update

Hey All! Dan B here. I hope everyone reading this is doing well and has been able to keep well in light of the ongoing pandemic. I've been asked to give a little update on how the students and student work within CAA has been going.

Us students are definitely feeling the impact of the pandemic on our studies and courses, as most are in ambulance land. I'm so grateful that we in our student spheres can be the points of support for those around us needing God's love in times like this.

I've been making contact with most (if not all!) of the students within our student group chat individually and have compiled a prayer list that I'm regularly praying over for our student members.

I would love for you to keep our students within your daily prayers.

We would so appreciate prayer as the vast swathe of us move towards exam season, ongoing placements and (for some of our students) qualifying!

Thank you so much for your continual prayers and looking out for us students on the road.

Excitingly, you might have seen an email about being a buddy or family for our student members. We've seen how great this can work within local churches and are really excited to adopt this into the CAA network. Please drop students@caauk.org an email if you are interested in getting involved!

Feel free to reach out to me for a chat or to share any thoughts of how we can further better the care of our student members on

students@caauk.org

Thanks for reading!
Dan
Student Lead

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4 verse 6)

Would you like to pray with us?

We produce a monthly prayer diary and we would be so happy to include you on our mailing list.

contact@caauk.org

**Our
members
are central
to every-
thing we do.**



Scott Owen

**Members and
Regional
Coordinators
Support Lead**



Our Members and Regional Coordinators Support Lead

Scott Owen has been appointed the 'Members and Regional Coordinators Support Lead' as part of our Central Leadership Team. This is a key role in CAA as our members are central to everything we do.

Scott will be responsible for welcoming new members and joining them into their local areas and also for working with our regional coordinators, to support the members in their area.

If you have any queries about your membership, or a friend who wants to talk to us about joining then please contact Scott at members@caauk.org. Equally, if you're in a regional coordinator's role, then you can also contact him for support and Scott will be arranging some online meetings in the near future.

Simon King, Chair of the CAA says "I know Scott is really excited about this new opportunity as he is a real people person and already has some great contacts in the wider Christian community that can benefit us. Thank you Scott for your willingness to serve us all in this way.

Not a member yet?

It's free to join so if you or a friend wants to join us simply fill in the form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBPM5Xn05Up8dmzIr18-Bw9mkdR8GmRIY8zNV-03wMVLOOGA/viewform> or email us at members@caauk.org

AGM

Please join us at our first AGM

Wednesday 2nd June 2021(19:15hrs)

We welcome all our members at our Central Leadership Team meetings. Our next one will be our first AGM. We would really welcome your support by joining us for this key meeting.

Currently, meetings are via Zoom.

For further information, or if you would like to join the meeting via zoom, please contact us at

contact@caauk.org

Getting to Know Your Trustees



Martyn Hallett
Trustee



Getting to know your Trustees Martyn Hallett

Why become a trustee of the CAA?

Hi, I'm Martyn Hallett, one of the Trustees of the CAA. Let me tell you a little about who I am, why I am pleased to be a trustee and how I got to be one!

I should say first that I don't work in the Ambulance or Paramedic Service, and never have. If that makes me an unlikely person to be a Trustee of the CAA, then God must work in unlikely ways!

I grew up in Ealing, West London, trained as an English Teacher and taught for 5 years in London – first in Fulham, then at Kennington Oval. In 1985 we moved to Bedford, where I combined teaching and church leadership until 1993, when I started full-time as a pastor, retiring in 2019.

I'm now 64, and have been married to Wendy (a physics teacher) for 39 years. We have 7 children and 7 grandchildren who keep us both busy, even in lockdown! I currently work one day a week (officially!) as a pastoral coordinator for a Christian Charity who run numerous Care Homes and Supported Living Housing Schemes. I'm based in Bedford but visit a Care Home in Peterborough once a month. I spend the rest of my time in preparation for church "word ministry" and in voluntary work for other charities. Family, friends and reading (and coffee) happily fill any spare moments!

A few things beyond work and family: I'm an 'armchair supporter' of a London football team I began following in 1967 while still at school. But since their current form is 'disappointing' I'll say no more about them! I enjoy running: mainly in Bedford Park early in the morning with few people around. I follow national politics with maybe too much interest, and deliver leaflets locally for a political party. I love words – especially poetry. I love time with people, especially if coffee and food are involved!

I've been a Christian since I was 12, with plenty of ups and downs, and am still learning how great and gracious God is. As a teenager I began to realise how much I had received in life without doing anything to deserve it – a loving family, stable home life, good health, educational opportunities, and much more – and being a Christian simply confirmed that principle of grace: God's undeserved favour.

**“The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many”
(Mark 10:45)**



Martyn Hallett (continued)

I remember as a Sixth Former helping with a holiday organised for children whose families would simply not be able to afford it, and hearing some of their stories. Even as a young man, my heart went out to people who struggled all the time with many of the things I took for granted.

After teacher training my first job was at a challenging school in a tough part of London. As a pastor, too, my heart has always been for those who struggle, wanting to help if I can, however God may lead. Jesus is the great example of serving others – he makes it a key value in his own mission: “The Son of Man did not come to be served **but to serve**, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Sharing gospel truth and pointing people to Jesus as the way to God is what we Christians must be about. But we can also learn to go around “doing good”, which Jesus was known for (Acts 10:38), and looking to do so in every situation. I’ve often felt I wanted to try to ‘put something back’ into the society and communities which have given so much to me.

In Bedford I’ve been a school governor for over 20 years: not always the most rewarding role, but very necessary. I’m a trustee of a Family Centre, supporting families in need with children under 5. I’m a voluntary chaplain for a Christian Charity supporting ex-offenders, where I meet some remarkable people who have made disastrous decisions in life, but now want to turn things around.

So how did I get involved with the CAA? Well, I’ve known Simon King (Chair of CAA) for over 30 years, since he became a Christian, and kept up with him on and off all that time. Then I made the “mistake” of inviting him to my retirement celebration! He contacted me afterwards about becoming a trustee of CAA, and the more I heard about it the more I was drawn in to want to help. It may be a cliché, but I was really struck again by the mission statement on the CAA website about working with “...*the same kinds of people Jesus Christ spent time with: the least, the last and the lost.*”

You good people in the ambulance and paramedic services – whatever your particular role – are helping people at the very moment of their struggle, and doing it day in, day out.

It’s not just faithfully doing what you are trained and paid to do; it’s doing it without complaining (at least not to those you’re helping!) and with compassion and kindness, often in very stressful circumstances.



'I found it impossible to say no.'

Thank you!

Keep going!

We all need you!



Martyn Hallett (continued)

We all really need you, and what you are doing really does make a difference. When it was suggested that without direct paramedic experience I would function like an 'independent' trustee, I found it impossible to say 'no'. I don't know first-hand what your work is like, but I do know that there are people in immediate and desperate need for whom you can make a real difference.

I sometimes think of a parallel from my own line of work. Last week I took a funeral: the husband of a lady I've known for 25 years. For her, it's a time of shock (he was 78 but death was unexpected) and of loss and deep sadness. It will usher in a time of loneliness and huge adjustment in everyday life. In that situation I know that the way I speak to her, and to family members I've never met, and the sensitivity I try to show in both practical and personal matters, will make a difference to the whole family – to their grieving, to their emotional well-being, and to the memories they treasure. So I want to do it as well as I can. It may be just one more funeral for me, but for a bereaved widow it's a day she will remember for the rest of her life. Likewise for your work: it takes special qualities to avoid total emotional detachment on the one hand, or total emotional immersion on the other.

So I want to say to all of you in CAA, (and to your colleagues, whether Christians or not), "Thank you! Keep going! We all need you!" For CAA members, we trustees serve 'behind the scenes' to fulfil the legal obligations of oversight of the organisation: governance, financial transparency, safeguarding, and much more; all the things that ensure credibility and accountability. And, very simply, as Christians we are called to serve, because we follow the greatest Servant of all.

SEE US AT



Stand T47



Click to Join, Pray, Volun-



Christian
Ambulance
Association



EMERGENCY
SERVICES
In Praise

****Proposed date****

TUESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2021

7.30pm – venue near to Birmingham NEC

We need volunteers to help make this event possible.

Can we count on your support?

PSALM
GIVE thanks
LORD, for he is good
and endureth for ever
redeemed of us