



Christian Ambulance Association



Welcome to another edition of our news as we enter the eagerly anticipated roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as we end the latest lock-down, introduce another version of the tier system (depending where you are in the UK) and then remove restrictions for Christmas. We need to be praying for our political leaders at such a complex and confusing time – it’s easy to criticise and find fault (yes, we’ve all done it, including me) but it’s an unenviable leadership challenge! ‘Confusing’ is the most common response I’ve encountered. On the one hand we recognise how difficult it is to apply a set of principles to everyone’s life circumstances, and yet we can’t reconcile some of the seemingly conflicting application of those rules. I love football and I’m looking forward to when we can safely get back to stadiums packed full of fans yelling, screaming and singing. Still, I’m struggling with being able to have 2,000 fans at a match whilst only 6 people can meet together outside, away from football. Isn’t football generally outside? I don’t get it.

In my experience, loads of people find Christianity at least as confusing as the 3-tier system, which is such a shame because God has much to say and to offer a world in turmoil and confusion. He is the God of order out of chaos, of love and rescue out of fear and loss. Although we believers have somehow managed to make the Christian message incredibly confusing, the Bible’s message is so clear - an unconditional offer of acceptance and forgiveness for anyone who wants Him to be their Lord and God and who turns back to Him.

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



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‘This is a great time to be reminded how precious and loved you are.’


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Despite what we've done. Not because we're pretty smart and we've worked it out when others around us haven't. Definitely not because we're somehow better or more 'religious' or worthy compared with our family, friends and colleagues. Simply because Jesus Christ chose to rescue us because he loves us and wants us back in his family.

Christmas is one of the best times of year to remember God's rescue mission for you and me. Sending his Son as a baby, specifically so he would grow into a man and sacrifice Himself for us on the cross. So that we could be included back in His family. Whether you're thinking about Christianity for the first time, or coming back after a while away or maybe you're going-on well in your faith... this is a great time to be reminded how precious and loved you are. If you want to know a bit more about this, contact us at info@caauk.net.

It's been a tough year by anyone's reckoning! Take a few moments this Christmas to step aside from winter pressures and the moral dilemma's of a COVID Christmas. We'll all need a few days; most people also long to be accepted unconditionally. Interesting crew room discussion topic...



Simon King
Chair
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Being Thankful in Challenging Times

There is much to be thankful for even during these difficult times as evidenced by 23 members attending the Coordination meeting on Wednesday 2nd December, from across the UK and beyond and a further 17 members sending their apologies. If ever there was an answer to prayer then this was it, for at times, during 2020 we have struggled to meet the needs of our members as our professional and personal commitments impacted upon our time in which we could commit to those key tasks. Thank you to everyone who joined us. It was a fabulous time of encouragement and a time for sharing. Thank you also to those who have expressed an interest in supporting the CAA with some of those key tasks. If anyone can offer a small part of their time to help then do please make contact with us at info@caauk.net.

“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)

*'Thank you for
your care and
service...*

*I send you a
virtual HUG!'*



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Words of Encouragement

Graham Cole

Life has changed for everyone, one good thing to come from the pandemic is an understanding and change of attitude to mental health. Our blue light responders are under unprecedented pressure.

I'm honoured to be president of PTSD999, to be there for those who are always there for others especially when they need some support. Having had the privilege to speak to many Paramedics you are perhaps under more immediate pressure. Please ask for help, you can't keep giving without some replenishment for your own mental health!

Speak to each other or indeed those of us here to support you! You get so used to giving, you forget to receive. Thank you for your care and service, I send you a virtual HUG!



My faith is more important than ever as my industry is decimated, like many, I've not worked since last March and very likely it will be well into the new year before something might be created with Government backing? Keep up your vital work, our support and continued witness is so important, our outward care given with love speaks a thousand words!

God bless you

Graham

Graham Cole probably better known as PC Tony Stamp in the TV series 'The Bill' from 1984-2009 is president of PTSD999 and awarded the OBE in 2010.

CAA Priorities for 2021

As we continue to reach more people in the ambulance service, our priorities going forward include a revamp of the website to bring together a communications strategy, this will enhance our communication links together with Twitter and Instagram. Along with our participation at the Emergency Services Show; putting together an annual Emergency Services in Praise event; supporting and encouraging Regional Leads; producing a monthly prayer newsletter alongside a monthly CAA bulletin which will compliment the quarterly newsletter. 2021 is to be celebrated as we continue to promote CAA through its members for its members.

A Christmas Message of Hope



Lynda Logan

**Lead
Chaplain**

**East of
England
Ambulance
Service**



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As we draw to the close of another year what can be said about 2020 which hasn't already been said or reported? 2020 has seen a new virus spreading rapidly throughout the whole world causing pain, death and upheaval, resulting in fear, anger, confusion and rebellion. We are living in unprecedented times.

Looking back to spring and early summer when the national lockdown was in full force, it gave plenty of time for reflection except, perhaps, to those key workers who worked long and hard hours in trying to keep the nation fit and healthy or in ensuring that there were food supplies available to all. Many caring for others paid with their lives, especially within the NHS. Into autumn, Government restrictions continued to affect our lives: changes occurred almost daily causing further isolation and uncertainty. Now, with winter and its long, dark nights upon us, we are once more into a second form of lockdown. Announcing the lockdown, the Prime Minister told us that we must prepare for a very different Christmas this year, however, "by taking tough action now" he hoped to save Christmas for families.

As Christians, what are we to make of all this? The one thing that we cannot ignore is the fact that, for the first time in history, our churches were shut down and we were driven out of our comfort zones into an arid, desert place. Even now, at the time of writing, many churches remain closed and those which are open may only do so, once more, for private prayer. We cannot celebrate Christmas in the usual way: we cannot hold joint Emergency Services' Carol Services and even if we enter our own particular church, all is surreal. Many church leaders have tried to carry on as best they could, putting their energies into finding new and creative ways of continuing rituals and practices performed in the past. Getting through this pandemic is seen as the priority until things can get back to normal. But is this really what God is asking for? Are we truly reflecting on the situation in which we find ourselves? Are we really listening to our Lord God? Using the words of Zedekiah, who was under threat from the Babylonians, to the prophet Jeremiah "Is there any word from the Lord?" (**Jer 37:17**).

We can learn much from the prophets who, from Moses to John the Baptist and of course, Jesus, himself, were desert people. They, too, lived in ungodly times very similar to our own. All prophets lived amongst and dealt with rebellious peoples: they were lone voices crying out in the wilderness. They spoke out against wrong values and practices, calling the people back into their covenant relationship with the Lord. The people, invariably, refused to listen. During the exile of the Jews in Babylon, the people rejected their God who had brought them out of slavery in Egypt: they no longer followed in His ways rather they absorbed the ways and beliefs of the Babylonians. Post Exile, Haggai's intention was to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem in order to restore the religious life and faith of the nation.



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He foresaw a time when God would shake all nations before filling “this house with glory”. (**Haggai 2:6**) Haggai wasn’t the only prophet to foresee a great shaking of the nations. Some 600 years later, the writer of Hebrews also foresaw the time of a great shaking when “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The words once more indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things - so that what cannot be shaken may remain.” (**Hebrews 12: 27**).

I firmly believe that those days are now upon us and that God is using the pandemic to bring about His purposes. God is shaking the nations, calling us individually and corporately back to Himself. Like the ancient Israelites, we are in the desert and are being called to learn the lessons of the desert. Whilst, the world over, we are covering our faces trying to protect ourselves and others against a killer disease, the Lord is allowing the masks, which hide our real fears and natures, to slip. All manner of things and evils are being exposed including, or perhaps especially, the wrong doings of His Church. In the desert we are stripped of our self-importance, self-righteousness, self-seeking and personal authority. The Lord knows and sees all: there is no hiding place in busy-ness or good works. He lays everything bare and asks “Who do you say I am?” (**Matthew 16”15**) He seeks our commitment to serve Him alone. It is not a case of God being on our side, rather it is the Lord’s challenge to each of us as to whose side we are on. He waits to hear the words “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (**Joshua 24:15**). We need to welcome and willingly enter this desert experience - by being still, repenting and humbly asking for forgiveness. Then we wait on the Lord - we watch, pray, read our bibles and listen to what He is saying to us and how we individually and corporately may change and be changed. We stand at the crossroads. If we refuse to heed this call, then we will continue on old paths, instead of looking for the ancient paths as described by Jeremiah (**Jer. 6:16**): we will do so at our own peril.

Whatever situation we find ourselves in this Christmas, whether crewing an ambulance, working from home or on planned leave, we must recognize the falsehood of the Prime Minister’s statement about saving Christmas for families. The truth is that the events and joyous message of Christmas remain the same now as they were 2000 years ago and will be forever. Christ came to save us, not the other way around. Our hope lies, not in the commercial and man-made trappings of a specific time related festival season or even in our family gatherings, but in God’s precious gift of himself in the form of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer. Let us look beyond the baby in the manger to the man, Jesus Christ, whose mission was to call us back to himself, promising eternal life to all who believe in Him.

This Christmas, may the Light of the World lighten our darkness so that our relationship with Him may be deepened, our faith renewed and that we may be true beacons of light during these dark and challenging times.

Obituary

Revd. Simon Woodmore 04/01/1969 – 19/09/2020

It is with immense sadness that I share with you the recent death of our friend, colleague and fellow CAA member – Reverend Simon Woodmore. After suffering a stroke a few days beforehand, Simon passed away on Saturday 19th September 2020. He was 51 years old. He and I first met in the latter part of 2016. Simon had just completed his Curacy training in the Anglican Church, and was featured later that same year in the LAS staff magazine, occupying a double-page glossy article on his new ‘dual role’! Dressed in his vestments and dog collar, Simon



was beaming from ear to ear, and really looked the part! A few months prior to spotting this article, I’d been praying into something God had placed on my own heart – creating a workplace Christian Fellowship group, to share faith and build community within the LAS, pan-London.

Simon was very keen to get involved, and with several other friends from across the Service, we met together for discussion & prayer over pancakes!.. And so, by God’s grace, the LAS Christian Fellowship was born in January 2017 – “CONNECT”, as it affectionately became known.

Over the past 4 years, Simon has served faithfully to help support colleagues in their time of need, as well as making a tremendous effort to help raise the profile of the group amongst senior management, and becoming a friend to many. Simon loyally stood by my side as Vice Chair of the group, offering his unwavering support through some pretty challenging times for London. In 2018, CONNECT merged with the CAA, of which Simon was a keen supporter behind the scenes, and he gave his blessing to rename the group “CAA-London” later this year.

Simon was a well-known figure within the LAS, long before I knew of him. Having joined the London Ambulance Service in 1991 – serving for more than 29 years - he had grown to become a greatly-respected colleague by many who knew him. He started working in PTS, qualifying as an Ambulance Person in 1992, and then later qualified as a Paramedic. After taking on several local management roles, Simon joined the CBRN Team as an Operations Officer in 2004. Two years later, he joined the newly formed HART Team as a Team Leader, before eventually moving to his final role as Operations Officer for HART, where he built the newly formed HART (West London) team in 2011.



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**Rev. Simon
Woodmore
04/01/1969 –
19/09/2020**



*‘Man of Action,
Man of Faith,
Man of Family’*

**Obituary
By
Ben Miller
Clinical Advisor
Paramedic
london.caauk@gmail.com**



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Simon later qualified as a National Inter Agency Liaison Officer (NILO), working on many national groups for HART & CBRN response. He played an instrumental role establishing HART in London, and across the country; his involvement is considered fundamental to getting HART to where it is today. He stood beside his colleagues in the midst of many of London’s disasters, including the Wraysbury Flooding in 2014, the Westminster Bridge & London Bridge Attacks in 2017, and he also supported colleagues during the extended response of the Grenfell Tower Fire that same year.

Within the LAS, as well as being instrumental in founding the LAS Christian Fellowship, Simon also became an informal chaplain to friends and colleagues – of all faiths and none – conducting Christenings, Weddings and Funerals upon request.

Outside of work, Simon went on to serve as a Priest to St Lawrence’s Church parish in Bovington, Hertfordshire. He was devoted to caring for the needs of his congregation, always having the welfare and comfort of everyone around him at heart. On top of all that, Simon also loved his time working with humanitarian relief charities – such as Hands International in the Calais Refugee Camp – and SARAID Search and Rescue in Sierra Leone. Before he died, Simon had recently served as a Volunteer Chaplain in the Mount Prison, Bovington; he spoke excitedly of his plans to retire from Ambulance life next year, and devote the rest of his time to serving those behind bars. Simon demonstrated compassion and Christ-centred love in a way that I will always remember.

Simon’s funeral was streamed live on YouTube, which has received some 1,300 viewings. In a tribute by his mentor, colleague and friend – Rev Charles Burch – Simon was aptly described as a *‘Man of Action, Man of Faith, Man of Family’*. This beautiful testament to Simon’s life sums up so much of the heart that he shared. His family meant the absolute world to him, and he spoke fondly of their adventures together.

I will always remember Simon as dear friend, and he will be deeply missed. He had a great sense of humour, and his convictions of God’s love for all people resonated in the way he lived his life. We will treasure the wonderful memories we have of him, and rejoice that he is now standing face-to-face before His Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, worshipping with all of Heaven. May he rest in peace and rise in glory, and may the God of all hope comfort those he leaves behind.

A Just Giving page was set up by a friend of Simon’s, in support of the much-loved family – his wife Michelle, his daughter Gemma and his son James – who he leaves behind. Over £7,500 has been raised already, but if you’d like to consider donating to this memorial fund, then here is the link:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/reverendsimonwoodmore?fb_comment_id=3613999178681920_3630299147051923

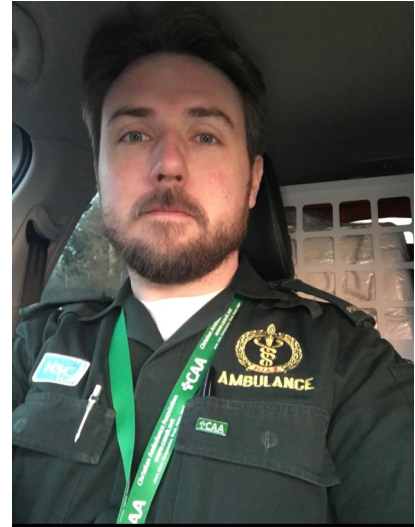
‘Wear your badge with pride and accept the opportunities it brings to share with others the message of Christ.’


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Regional Lead Update Northern Ireland

My name is Andy Moore and I'm the regional lead for the CAA in Northern Ireland. I'm a paramedic, having worked initially in WMAS before coming home to Northern Ireland in 2012, and I'm currently an ordinand with the Church of Ireland. I found the CAA by sheer accident whilst on social media and instantly found myself drawn to it. Northern Ireland has a history of trouble among its citizens and the ambulance service here, as well as its staff of all grades, have always prided itself on being neutral. That allowed us during the bad times to go anywhere, at any time and for any call in order to help those in need. Today the country is a much different place, 20+ years after the Good Friday Agreement communities are integrating and sharing a more positive future. For me, the need to find other Christian ambulance staff was important. I knew of a few (from random conversations in the front of vehicles) but the need for structure and a collective voice was there.

The CAA has answered that and I'm proud to play a small role in its development.



We have around a dozen members, not a lot, but we still gather and share in fellowship regularly and support each other through our social media platforms. The word is spreading within NIAS that we're out there and as such we are getting noticed. That's our goal for the coming year, to increase our membership, to reach out to those ambulance staff in need and support each other. If I can offer one bit of advice, wear your badge with pride and accept the opportunities it brings to share with others the message of Christ.

Andy Moore
northernireland.caauk@gmail.com

...and from the CAA Trustees

For those serving on the front line whether wearing the green, the blue or the red of the emergency services, 2020 has presented many challenges. The Trustees would like to extend their thanks to you all and to wish you, your colleagues, your families and friends, a safe but enjoyable Christmas.



Collaborative Working COVID-19



Simon Hewitt

**Firefighters
For Christ**



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As we face this time of our lives together, dealing with the impact of COVID-19 which has impacted each one of us in a way that we would not have planned or expected at the start of 2020, the Fire and Rescue Service (F&RS) have faced many challenges; it affected the training and also crewing levels, which I recognise will also have happened in all areas of the emergency services.

As we look at the F&RS, it has been great to see the flexibility in which they carry out their responsibilities and tasks, demonstrating this by assisting the Ambulance Service in driving and providing support during the wave of the coronavirus. We thank God that many of the F&RS personnel were willing to volunteer to assist their colleagues in the Ambulance Service.

In other parts of the world, the F&RS were under a lot of strain as they provided medical care for those who were suffering from the coronavirus. In New York and other places, they were continually dealing with coronavirus patients, having to carry out medical procedures in their full PPE. This was a massive strain on the Departments and the personnel as they dealt with these situations a number of times during a 24-hour shift. They undoubtedly will have suffered and may well continue to suffer in the future.

In some parts of the world the F&RS has been active in providing support for infection control and also supporting curfews. As always, the F&RS has been able to adapt to any situation and as I have said, it is great to see their ability to assist the Ambulance Service in providing support in the UK. We continue to pray for all the emergency services, as they continue to deal with the pandemic. We pray that God will give wisdom and protect them as they undertake their duties, as they provide support to the public and as they provide support to each other.

I am challenged by the beginning of Ps 23:1 – ‘The Lord in my Shepherd...’ If we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, He will be with us, to guide us, guard you and protect us. Just as a shepherd looks after their sheep, so the Lord looks after His children.

God bless you all

From the CAA Treasurer...

We would not be here today without the generosity of members in donating to CAA. A new bank account has been opened and new account details are on page 10. We continue to work with Stewardship allowing for members to donate using a one-click donate link enabling us to take advantage of claiming gift aid where applicable. Full details will follow. If you have an existing standing order set up then these should migrate across automatically.

Central Co-ordination Group



Christian Ambulance Association

Next meeting:

3rd March 2021
(19:15hrs)

If you are a member of CAA, we welcome you to join us at our central coordination group where we strategically plan the progress of CAA. We welcome your support.

At this time meetings are via zoom - For further information, or if you would like to join the meeting via zoom, please contact us at

info@caauk.net



HALL 5 | NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE | 27-28 APRIL 2021

Postponed

New Date now
7th & 8th September 2021

As a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we have reviewed our existing banking arrangements and have opened an account with the Charities Aid Foundation

One of the reasons for reviewing our banking arrangements is to simplify the process of making donations and encourage charitable giving thereby allowing for Gift Aid to be claimed in line with HMRC guidelines

The existing account has been closed and any Direct Debits/Standing Orders that may have been previously set up, should automatically be migrated across however, should you want to take advantage of the Gift Aid option, then please cancel your existing instructions and sign up via the give.net link or click the box below



Christian Ambulance Association

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

Ever wondered how far CAA reaches across the globe? Here is an extract from an email with certain details omitted ensuring anonymity.

“My husband and I are in New Zealand, BUT my daughter works for an Ambulance Service in the south of England. We visited her this time last year. I have encouraged her to join the caauk, but she is quite shy.

We follow her ambulance "adventures" very closely, and we are praying that her close colleagues will become Christians soon.

We would love to pray for you, and all your colleagues through the UK.

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 info@caauk.net