

Scintillating festival for band weekend

CROYDON CITADEL

TERRITORIAL leaders Commissioners Clive and Marianne Adams led band weekend and tackled the post-referendum spirit of uncertainty. 'The Church is perfectly placed to lead the way through the darkness into the light,' the TC said.

'Hopelessness,' said the commissioner during the Sunday morning meeting, 'is like a contagious disease. People need the living hope that only Christ can bring. We, who are his followers, must be bearers of hope, not just beneficiaries of it.'

The celebrations began the previous evening with a scintillating festival by Enfield Band, which began with the march 'The Southern Cross' and ended with the band's trademark stand-up rendition of 'The Red Shield'. The programme featured multiple solos and the TC joined the trombone section for 'Croydon Citadel'.

Presenting the Scripture reading and comment, the TC gave a foretaste of his message the following day, declaring: 'We must obey the words in Psalm 80 calling us to radiate the light of God and bring people back to him.'

Sunday morning and afternoon meetings featured the host band, songsters, singing company and YP band. Bandsman John Laird gave his testimony.

Marking the Queen's 90th birthday and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the band played 'In Gardens Of Peace'.

In the afternoon Commissioner Marianne Adams spoke on the theme Communications. Basing her thoughts on words from Psalm 98, she urged the congregation to 'tell each other good things and avoid negative criticism' and issued the challenge: 'What are you communicating today?' - C. K.



A challenging musical evening

MALDON

CHIEF Secretary Colonel David Hinton led a Saturday night musical celebration at the United Reformed church and challenged the congregation to consider how individual believers throughout Scripture acted as catalysts for change.

Guests Rutherglen Band and Singing Group united with the host music sections. The united band played 'Exultation' and the singing group offered a varied programme including 'The Cross Of Christ' and 'Hymn To The Conqueror'. Margaret Nuttall sang 'Keep On Believing' and sisters Lynda Orr and Elizabeth Ramsay sang 'Jesus And Me'.

Colonel Sylvia Hinton (THQ) presented retirement certificates to corps officers Majors Margaret and Stephen Huyton after 38 years' service.

YPSM Linda Orr led the Sunday morning meeting where the united bands and songsters entered into an after-meeting 'wind-up', playing 'The Victors Day' and 'To God Be The Glory' (see picture). - S. H.

- A strawberry cream tea at **Wickford** raised £156 for the Big Collection

- **Ipswich Bramford Road** home league members enjoyed a birthday tea for the Queen



A united challenge

SKEWEN

GORSEINON, Morriston, Swansea and Skewen congregations united for a salvation meeting.

Corps officer Captain Jo Walters challenged: 'Are you willing to stand for Jesus and are you willing to stand alone?' Seven members of the congregation testified.

Skewen Band, with help from visiting musicians, played the march 'God's Soldier' and the songsters from Morriston and Skewen sang 'Under The Cover Of His Wings'.

Captain Walters spoke about men of faith in the Bible who stood their ground. - S. L.

Reflections on band weekend

LONGTON

CASTLEFORD Band and Songsters played and sang in Queen's Park for the 132nd corps anniversary weekend. The music attracted passers-by, who stopped and listened; children participated in a range of crafts before leaving with a goody bag.

In the evening the band and songsters presented an accomplished programme at the hall and on Sunday Captains Marian and Steve Fripp (Castleford) encouraged the congregation to look to the past, present and future and give God the glory. - K. R.