



130 YEARS

HAMILTON BERMUDA

130 Years Marching On! 1896–2026



SPECIAL GUESTS

COMMISSIONERS LEE
AND DEBBIE GRAVES

TERRITORIAL LEADERS



SUPPORTED BY

LIEUT.-COLONELS SCOTT
AND MICHELLE RIDEOUT

DIVISIONAL LEADERS

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25
12:30 P.M.**

PROCLAMATION

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
6 P.M.**

**ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT**

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
9 A.M.**

**MARCH OF
WITNESS**

10 A.M.

**WORSHIP
SERVICE**



Giving Hope Today

The Salvation Army

Bermuda Regional Office
Atlantic Division

OFFICE OF THE AREA COMMANDER
Bermuda

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Greetings!

As a third-generation Salvationist, it gives me great joy and honor to have the opportunity to say a few words of congratulations as we celebrate 130 years of dedication and service in the City of Hamilton.

Growing up as a young boy, The Salvation Army was the only church organization my family knew, and for many other children growing up in Bermuda, The Salvation Army played a pivotal role in their lives as well. Whether through Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Girl Guides, Sunday School, or many other ministries and programs, The Salvation Army became a household name and an important part of the fabric of our community.

Today, after 130 years of faithful ministry and service, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve as Bermuda's first Area Commander, a responsibility that I do not take lightly. This role provides me with a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community that has given so much to me, while drawing from the experiences and blessings I have had the privilege of receiving as a Salvation Army officer serving in Canada.

I am deeply grateful for the journey God has allowed me to travel. It reminds me that we can never underestimate the plans God has for our lives as we journey with Him in spirit and in truth.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, may we give thanks for the generations of Salvationists, officers, soldiers, volunteers, leaders, families, and friends who have faithfully served and supported The Salvation Army in Bermuda. May we also look with hope and expectation toward the future, trusting that the same God who has guided us for these 130 years will continue to lead, strengthen, and use The Salvation Army to bring hope, help and transformation to the people of Bermuda.

Congratulations on 130 years of faithful service in the City of Hamilton. May God continue to bless The Salvation Army and all those who serve through it.

Captain Alfred C. Esdaille

Area Commander

Salvation Army Bermuda Region

William et Catherine Booth
Founders

Lyndon Buckingham
General

Lee Graves
Territorial Commander

Scott Rideout
Divisional Commander



The Salvation Army

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Dear Salvationists and Friends,

We greet you on this wonderful occasion as we celebrate The Salvation Army's dedicated, faithful service and ministry in the city of Hamilton, Bermuda since 1896. It is a pleasure for us to be with you marking this incredible milestone with thanksgiving to the Lord. The rich history of this God-glorifying movement, with its Kingdom focus, is a testament to the faithful—both past and present—who have been the cornerstone of this vibrant and ever-present ministry.

The chosen theme, “**130 Years Marching On,**” fittingly describes the past perseverance and sustained endurance of a strong Army while looking confidently to the future with determination and trust in the Lord for even greater things.

Bermudian soldiers and friends are resilient followers of Jesus. They are Christ-centred and others-focused. Building on the past foundation of faith, the opportunity continues to be ours to live the gospel and serve the present age without changing our mission focus. As we look to the days ahead, let us heed the encouragement of the Apostle Paul to “press on” (see Philippians 3:14), confident in the power of our Lord.

We each play a vital role in advancing our mission, proclaiming God's love and the good news of salvation. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel as we fulfill our mission mandate together.

May God abundantly bless His movement, The Salvation Army!

May He abundantly bless you!

Commissioners Lee and Debbie Graves

Territorial Leaders

Canada and Bermuda Territory

William and Catherine Booth
Founders

Lyndon Buckingham
General

Lee Graves
Territorial Commander

1896–2026

MARCHING ON

Early Beginnings

In 1895, before a permanent corps had been established. British sailors associated with The Salvation Army's Naval and Military League—popularly known as the Hallelujah Blue Jackets—marched, played music and held open-air meetings.

Lieutenant David Smith conducted some of the earliest services, including gatherings at King's Barn near Lemon Hill in Southampton. Hamilton was the center of developing work. In January 1896 permanent officers were appointed. Lucretia "Lutie" DesBrisay arrived from Halifax with Captain Johnson and Lieutenant Forsyth. Hamilton Corps became a recognizable part of the Island's religious and community life.



Adjutant Lutie DesBrisay, first district officer and commander of Hamilton Corps, with Captain Laura Brehaut

Before long, the first documented Salvation Army meeting in Hamilton was held, with the mayor's permission, in the Town Hall at 113 Front Street. This was a meaningful foundation for the enduring relationship between The Salvation Army, the people of Hamilton and the City of Hamilton.

One of the earliest converts was James C. Smith, remembered as "Bermuda Jim." Drawn to an open-air meeting by its music, he became a Salvationist and later served as an officer in Canada. Other converts soon offered themselves for full-time service. Sergeant Fred Bell, known as the "Bermuda Wonder," extended the message through extraordinary sales of *The War Cry*, distributing thousands of copies in a single year.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Hamilton Corps was an established congregation. For much of the twentieth century, Booth Memorial Hall at the corner of Court and Reid Streets was home. The building became known as Hamilton Citadel, which included a base for community outreach.

When Booth Memorial Hall could no longer accommodate the congregation and its programs, the Court Street property was sold. Hamilton Citadel worshipped in Dellwood Primary School's Assembly Hall while its new building was developed at 10 North Street. North Street Citadel was dedicated in 1997 as a place for worship and community ministry.

Newlands Corps, which opened in 1957 to serve the Roberts Avenue and Friswell's Hill community, was later amalgamated with North Street Citadel.

Ministry of Music

W. E. Saltus played in the earliest band and was Hamilton's first formally appointed bandmaster. Henry Simmons subsequently led the Hamilton Corps Band for nearly 40 years with distinction. The band supported worship, marches, open-air meetings, public welcomes, Christmas ministry and evangelistic campaigns.

The Citadel Band, Young People's Band, Scout Band, Songster Brigade, singing company and choirs formed generations of Bermudians. Leaders made music one of the clearest ways in which Hamilton Citadel worshipped, taught, witnessed and served.



Hamilton
young people's band

A Place for Young People

Uniformed organizations based at Booth Memorial Hall were remembered collectively as the 2nd Hamilton groups or troops. They included Sunbeams, Brownies, Girl Guides, Rangers and Sea Rangers, Guards and Chums, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Scout musicians, Corps Cadets and other young people's groups. These were important pathways to belonging and responsibility.

Street Outreach

The Citadel's ministry to meet people where they were depended upon local Salvationists whose service was often personal and unseen.

Otives Doars cooked substantial numbers of meals for people experiencing homelessness and carried a courageous ministry into the bars and nightclubs of North Hamilton. She spoke with patrons, offered spiritual support, and connected those seeking help with counselling, addiction treatment, and the wider Army community.

Major Violet Lightbourne (affectionately remembered as "Hallelujah Lightbourne") was known for her spontaneous shouts of praise, prayer ministry and fearless concern for people others might overlook. She visited older residents, encouraged families, and entered bars to distribute Salvation Army literature and speak with people affected by addiction or hardship.



Children and youth find
sense of belonging

Expanding Social Services

The 20th century brought substantial growth in Hamilton-based social services. The Dudley Butterfield Harbour Light Addiction Treatment Centre that opened on King Street in 1977, offered residential treatment, counselling, work therapy, spiritual support, and opportunities for recovery. Feeding programs, family assistance, the soup run, emergency accommodation and street outreach developed alongside it.

In the 1990s, a day centre for people experiencing homelessness was created through partnerships involving The Salvation Army, the Bermuda Government, and the Corporation of Hamilton. It provided meals, counselling, referrals, and recreation.

City Hall and The Salvation Army

The Army's relationship with the City developed to the point where Mayors participated in Red Shield flag-raising traditions, publicly connected City Hall with the Army's charitable work and acknowledged the Army's work as both spiritual and practical.

The modern relationship with Mayor Charles Gosling has been especially visible. City Hall has repeatedly welcomed Salvation Army leaders, bands, congress activities, Red Shield appeals and Christmas Kettle campaigns. Mayor Gosling has used the civic platform to encourage Hamilton's businesses and residents to support meals, family assistance, shelter, and homelessness outreach. This relationship has made City Hall a bridge between Hamilton's civic leadership, commercial community, and the Army's frontline mission.

Embracing Local Leadership

In 2025, Captain Alfred Esdaille became the first Bermudian Area Commander while also serving as Corps Officer of North Street Citadel alongside his wife, Captain Cathy Esdaille.

The development of local leadership continued in July 2026 when Jamel Bean, former North Street Citadel bandmaster, was appointed Envoy and Corps Officer of West End Community Church.

Announced in June 2026, Mr. Lionel Cann received the British Empire Medal in the King's birthday honours for his lifetime of compassionate service and dedication to emergency disaster relief and homelessness outreach in Bermuda.



Dill family has deep roots in community service, church involvement and leadership

1909 - 2026

PAST CORPS OFFICERS

HAMILTON/NORTH STREET CITADELS

**July 1,
1909**

**Smith,
Neil J**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**June 3,
1911**

**Owen,
Elias
Morgan**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**August 22,
1912**

**Allen,
Elizabeth**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**April 3,
1913**

**Burton,
Thomas
Alfred**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**April 23,
1915**

**Millar,
William**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**April 23,
1915**

**Forsyth,
Mary
Demster**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**October 15,
1916**

**Galway,
Joseph**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**July 12,
1917**

**Wheeler,
Margaret A**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**August 11,
1920**

**Ash,
Samuel**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**August 11,
1920**

**Harrison,
Annie E**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**June 15,
1921**

**Ritchie,
Harold
Clifton**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**September 1,
1922**

**Hiscock,
Ebenezer**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**July 3,
1924**

**Taylor,
Judith**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**August 1,
1924**

**Gillingham,
John
Thomas**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**July 2,
1925**

**Charlong,
Muriel
Christina**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**September 23,
1927**

**Thomson,
Mary**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**September 24,
1927**

**Lewis,
William**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**November 9,
1931**

**Morrison,
Robert**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**May 12,
1932**

**Rowley,
Rose**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**May 12,
1932**

**Burnell,
Ethel Doris**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**May 25,
1936**

**Spearing,
William
Benjamin**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**September 2,
1937**

**Whibley,
Ethel**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**March 9,
1939**

**Hill,
Ethel**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**August 21,
1939**

**Pollock,
Thomas**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**June 27,
1940**

**Holmes,
Dorothy
Jean**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**November 14,
1940**

**McLeod,
Marjorie
Eleanor**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**May 14,
1942**

**Hill,
Ethel**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**June 17,
1943**

**Burch,
Lilian
Florence**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**April 20,
1944**

**Falle,
Ernest M**

Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

**November 9,
1944**

**Polhill,
Gertrude
Julia**

Assistant
Corps Officer
Hamilton Citadel

January 29, 1945 Hicks, Magaretta Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 26, 1947 Russell, Janet Elveria Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	February 19, 1948 Hartas, George Bertram Murray Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 2, 1948 Crozier, Jean Ruth Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 2, 1948 Paynter, Emily Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	January 31, 1952 Tuck, Edna Elizabeth Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel
June 26, 1952 Welbourn, Oliver Gilbert Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	February 19, 1959 Pike, June Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	March 19, 1959 Watt, Charles Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 30, 1960 Green, Constance Assistant Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 28, 1962 Robertson, David Bruce Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	September 2, 1965 Brightwell, Frederick William Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel
June 29, 1967 Goobie, Frederick Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 26, 1969 Jannison, Lorne Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 25, 1970 Dixon, Frank Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 28, 1973 Hollman, Clifford Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 26, 1975 Piercey, Raymond Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 22, 1978 Norton, John Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel
June 25, 1981 Jones, Bryn Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 23, 1983 Hewlett, Ralph Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 21, 1984 Millar, Ronald Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 2, 1987 Graves, Cecil Robert Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 5, 1991 High, Gary Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 30, 1995 Braund, James Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel
July 2, 1999 Shirran, Richard Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 2, 2004 Wilson, Alfred Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	April 9, 2006 Wilson, Alfred Corps Officer North Street Citadel	July 1, 2011 Kean, William Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 29, 2012 Jennings, Bruce A Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	July 1, 2016 Hepditch, Kent Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel
August 14, 2020 Barnes, Dwayne Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	June 30, 2023 Simms, Darryl Corps Officer Hamilton Citadel	March 1, 2024 Simms, CathyAnn Corps Officer North Street Citadel	July 4, 2025 Esdaille, Alfred and Cathy Corps Officers North Street Citadel		

BERMUDA 130th ANNIVERSARY ORDERS OF SERVICE

Friday, September 25, 2026
12:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATION ON STEPS OF CITY HALL

Band Prelude

Anniversary Band

Proclamation

Town Crier

Introduction of Territorial Leaders

Captain Alfred Esdaille
Area Commander

Words of Greeting

Commissioner Lee Graves
Territorial Commander

Words of Greeting

Charles Gosling
Former Mayor

Solo

Words of Greeting

Member of Parliament

Words of Greeting

Mayor Michael Branco

Closing Remarks

Captain Alfred Esdaille

BERMUDA 130th ANNIVERSARY ORDERS OF SERVICE

Saturday, September 26, 2026
6 p.m.

ANNIVERSARY CONCERT *REACHING FORWARD THROUGH THE PAST*

Band Prelude	Anniversary Band
Welcome	CSM Brian Fubler
Vocal Item	Anniversary Songsters
Timbrel Selection	Anniversary Timbrel Brigade
Selections	Anniversary Band
Singing Company	
Vocal Solo <i>"Midnight Cry"</i>	Eugene Phillips
Men's Quartet	
Solo	Kevin Hayward
Devotional	Captain Alfred Esdaille <i>Area Commander</i>
Joint Brass and Vocal Selection	
Benediction	

BERMUDA 130th ANNIVERSARY ORDERS OF SERVICE

Sunday, September 27, 2026

**MARCH OF WITNESS AT 9 A.M.
FOLLOWED BY SERVICE AT 10 A.M.**

Band Prelude

Anniversary Band

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Captain Alfred Esdaille
Area Commander

Call to Worship - Psalm 150

Opening Song
"Storm the Forts of Darkness"

Vocal Item

Anniversary Songsters

Tithes and Offerings

Praise and Worship

Singing Company

Scripture
Philippians 3:12-4:1

Commissioner Debbie Graves
*Territorial Leader for
Spiritual Life Development*

Message - Holy Endurance

Commissioner Lee Graves
Territorial Commander

Reflection

Closing Song
"O Boundless Salvation"

Benediction and Doxology

ACSM Cheryl Jones

Lunch will be served after the worship service.



Hamilton has changed since 1896, but many human needs remain familiar. People still require food, shelter, recovery, safety and hope. Children still need trustworthy adults, belonging and opportunities to develop their gifts. The city still needs organizations willing to combine conviction with compassionate action.

Buildings have changed, but the mission stays the same.

**The band still plays.
The church still worships.
The meal is still served.
The prayer is still offered.
The hand is still extended.
The Army is still marching on!**



March of witness with girl scouts