**Raise money for the Candidates Fund with the rubber duck holiday challenge!**

**What you will need**: Rubber ducks. These can be ordered from a variety of places including in bulk from Amazon.

**The idea:** Invite your congregation to donate to the Candidates Fund in exchange for a rubber duck. During the summer they can take their duck away with them (abroad, here in UK, on a day trip or just somewhere different) and take a photo of it in an unusual place or space. Ask everyone taking part to submit their photos to the relevant person in your corps by a certain date ready to be featured in the meeting some time after the summer.

**Why**: The point is that the money goes towards the Candidates Fund; and we are reminded that when we say yes to God’s will and purpose we can end up in exciting, unusual, never-dreamed-of places, doing something beautiful for him, and it’s exciting!

**Accompanying thought:** There is a little town of ducks. Every Sunday the ducks waddle out of their houses and down the street to their church. They waddle into the church and squat in their pews. The duck choir waddles in and take their places and quack out a song. Then the duck minister comes forward to the duck pulpit and opens the duck Bible and preaches to them. He says, ‘Ducks! God has given you wings!’ They all quack in agreement. ‘With wings you can fly!’ They all quack ‘Amen!’ The duck preacher shouts, ‘With wings you can fly high and soar like eagles!’ They all quack ‘Amen!’ and agree that they can soar like eagles! ‘Nothing can stop you; no walls can confine you; no fences can hold you. You have wings. God has given you wings, and you can fly high!’ The duck congregation shout, ‘We can fly high, nothing can stop us. Amen and Amen!’ The duck preacher closes his duck Bible and the ducks all waddle out of their pews and waddle out of the duck church and waddle all the way home.

The point of the story is clear: in that moment they all quack ‘Amen!’ but they immediately carry on with what they were doing before and waddle off without flying. They don’t put into practice what they were quacking ‘Amen’ to. Can we be the same?

We agree that God has plans for our lives. We agree and say ‘Amen’ to the fact that he uses people like us to make a difference and we agree that he gives us all we need to fulfil his will and purpose. We say ‘Amen’ to being open to his leading and guiding whatever that may mean and wherever that could take us, even leadership or officership in The Salvation Army. Maybe for some here today we must put our ‘Amen’ into practice – make a phone call, talk to someone about our calling, or start a process to test it and see if what we are saying ‘Amen’ to is what God wants us to do.

Remember that this Scripture is for all of us as people here on planet earth …

‘Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles’ (Isaiah 40:31)

**Keep soaring!**