

## Life Stories

Each year there is a gathering of people connected to The Salvation Army from across the UK and Ireland. This event is called “Together”. The theme of **Together 24** is God’s Story, Our Story, Your Story. As part of the event, we would like to display art created by people from across the UK and Ireland – created by you. We want to do this through an art project called **Life Stories**.

**Life Stories** aims to collect the stories of people from across The Salvation Army in a creative way, using an old book as your canvas. Here are some examples:



The stories you include in your book are yours to choose. All we ask is that they say something about you! So be authentic, express yourself however you choose, and be part of the story. You can fill as many pages as you want to. Please only share what you feel comfortable sharing.

When you have finished, put something inside the front cover to indicate who you are. This could be your name and location, or if you would like to remain anonymous, something which describes your relationship to The Salvation Army. For example, ‘member of Conversation Café’ or ‘volunteer at food bank’ etc.

The books will be displayed at the Together 2024 event with others from across the UK and Ireland. If you do not wish for your book to be displayed, please let the person running the session know.

After the event, the books may also be displayed to the general public at other events or Salvation Army centres. If you don’t wish for them to be displayed for this reason, please let the session leader know.

Below are some questions and ideas that may help spark your creativity. Choose whichever you like and respond in your book. Maybe each page in your book is a different answer to a question. Maybe one question fills multiple pages - it's up to you.

- Who are you?
- How do people describe you?
- What is important to you?
- How did you get here?
- What are your favourites?
- What is the best advice you've been given?
- Do you have a favourite bible verse?
- Do you have a favourite quote?
- Who matters to you?
- How did you first meet The Salvation Army?
- What place makes you happy?
- What songs speak to you most?
- Who is God to you?
- What are the key moments in your life?
- What are you proud of?
- What are you scared of?
- If you could be anything, what would you be?
- What is The Salvation Army to you?
- The best way to live life is...

If at any point during the session you need to take a break, or you need to speak to someone because of what you are feeling, please let the session leader know. It is ok to stop at any time!

### **A prayer**

Father God, you have created us all differently. We all come with our own experiences and stories, our joys and sorrows, our memories and hopes. We thank you that you have given us each a voice with which to speak, creativity to express our ideas and emotions, and a unique story to tell. We pray that by sharing our stories we may understand each other better and learn to live as your children together in harmony.

Amen.