

Oban's Salvation Army is 20-years-old

Sitting in the tardis that is the Salvation Army Hall on Stevenson Street, Captain Connie MacCallum reflects on the work the Oban corp has done since its formation 20 years ago.

She struggles, first time round, to list every project the Oban corp is involved in.

For although she has been there for only seven of those years, Captain Connie's enthusiasm seems to have rubbed off on the corp's members as the group slowly grows in stature.

Recently the Oban corp has inducted its first junior soldier for nine years, eight-year-old Charlotte Collins.

There is also another senior soldier to add to the ranks in Elsie Dunlop.

Connie told *Lorn Life*: 'In my time here, despite losing a few members recently, we have gained a lot of new members.

'We have four senior soldiers and now we have one junior soldier but we have 15 people regularly attending our services.

'It means a lot to us to get a junior soldier as it is encouraging to see young people coming in and making a stand.

'She made the decision herself and knows exactly what it means to live your life as a Christian.'

The Oban corp now conducts so many regular projects there are barely enough days in the week to fit them all in.



The restaurant next door to the Salvation Army Hall was set up two years ago.

From the restaurant the corp runs a Friday cafe to raise funds.

During the winter months there is a popular Monday coffee morning.

The cafe is also open four days a week to the homeless who can come in for something to eat.

However, Friday is also JAM Club day. The abbreviation stands for Jesus And Me the club is attended by 11 children to come and play and learn more about their religion.

But it is Christmas time when all hands are to the pumps at the Salvation Army.

Connie said: 'Christmas time is very busy.

'We go round the hospital and sing and deliver sweets.

'We also have out Pass the Parcel Appeal which is when we gather toys, wrap them and deliver them to needy children.