

## **TODAY Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December** Third Sunday in Advent

- 9.45am Meetings for toddlers, children & teenagers  
10.00am Senior Band ensemble at Beaufort Court  
10.15am **Prayer** in the Prayer Room  
11.00am **Worship** led by Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones  
5.00pm **Family Carol Service** led by Colin & Nicola

## **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December** Hall open between 9am and 3pm

- 5.00pm YP Band at Staple Hill School Carol Service at Hebron  
6.00pm Rainbows  
7.00pm Sorting Children's Presents & Preparing Food Parcels  
7.45pm Cell Group with Peter Belcher

## **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** Hall open between 9am and 3pm

- 12.30pm Ensemble at Rotary Christmas Dinner at Kendleshire  
7.30pm Songsters at Woodlands Residential Home

## **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Hall open between 9am and 3pm

- 3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm Slimming World  
6.30pm Senior Band Ensemble at Community Event, Fishponds

## **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Hall open between 9am and 3pm

- 10.30am "Meet & Greet"  
12.30pm Lunch Club  
6.00-7.30pm YP Band Carolling at Tesco Extra, Yate  
6.00-9.00pm Senior Band Carolling at The Mall

## **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** Hall open between 9am and 3pm

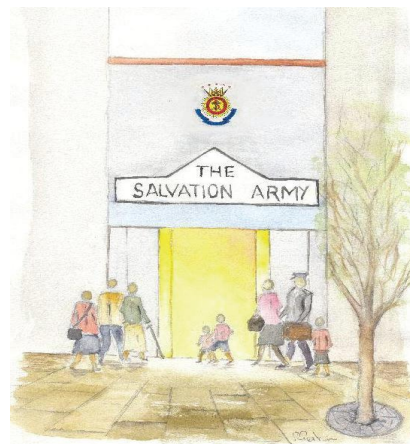
- 9.30am & 11.30am Slimming World

## **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10.00am-12.00pm Coffee Morning  
10.00am-2.00pm Senior Band Carolling at The Mall  
10.30am-12.00pm YP Band Carolling at Willowbrook, Bradley Stoke

## **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9.45am Meetings for toddlers, children & teenagers  
10.00am Senior Band ensemble at Peache Court  
10.00am Young People at Park View Court  
10.15am **Prayer** in the Prayer Room  
11.00am **Worship** led by Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones  
2.30pm Carol Service at Deerhurst - CCM plus ensemble  
5.00pm **Carol Service** led by Colin & Nicola



# The Weekly Bulletin of the Staple Hill Salvation Army

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## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Crackers are typically pulled at the Christmas dinner table. Records show the pulling of Christmas *Crackers* or *Bonbons* from the early 1840s invented by Tom Smith of London in 1847. He created the crackers as a development of his bon-bon sweets, which he sold in a twist of paper. As sales of bon-bons slumped, Smith inserted "love messages" into the wrappers of the sweets. Smith added the "crackle" element when he heard the crackle of a log he had just put on a fire. The sweet itself was eventually dropped, to be replaced by a trinket - a small toy, a small plastic model or other trinket. One tradition is that the person with the larger portion of cracker empties the contents from the tube and keeps them. In another, each person has their own cracker and keeps its contents regardless of whose end they were in. The "love messages" have gradually become a motto, a joke, a riddle or piece of trivia. The tradition of wearing festive paper hats with the appearance of crowns, usually worn when eating Christmas Dinner, is believed to date back to Roman times.

If we did our own crackers with a 'love message', what would they say?

***"No act of kindness is ever wasted"***

***"God gave us music so that we could pray without words"***

***"If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present"***

***"Why do we only rest in peace? Why don't we live in peace too?"***

***C.O.F.F.E.E. "Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere"***

But I saw this today: ***"Dads know a lot, but Grandads know everything!"***

Marc Willetts. Corps Sergeant Major (07808 730706) [marckay83@gmail.com](mailto:marckay83@gmail.com)

## THE 'Gifts of Christmas' BULLETIN

**Our final 'Carol Service' is next Sunday at 5pm.** Perhaps the final realistic opportunity this Christmas to invite someone to the Salvation Army.

**Christmas Day at the Salvation Army.** Be great to see you at the Service which starts at 11am. However, volunteers are required to help serve & look after our day guests as well as driving them to & from the Hall. If you can help in any way, please see David James or Colin & Nicola in his absence.

**Christmas Card Postal Service.** Cards posted each Sunday will be available for collection by the following Sunday – **last post is TODAY Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.** Donations for this internal service go towards the work with our Youth who deserve it after all the hard work sorting!!

Tomorrow Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, we will be preparing **Food Parcels** for those in need this Christmas & sorting the **Children's Presents** you and others have donated. Many hands make light work!

**Hall Opening during December:** Until Christmas, the hall will be open everyday Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm. A rota of volunteers has been drawn up to ensure the doors can stay open to accept any donations of toys etc, and also answer any queries people may have at this busy time.

**NO Sunday 5pm Worship: 25<sup>th</sup> December, January 1st or 8<sup>th</sup>.**  
**NO Weekly Bulletins Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December or 1<sup>st</sup> January.**

## 2017 BULLETIN:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January: 11am Worship only (New Years Day)  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January: **Commitment Sunday** 11am Worship Only. You are all invited to join us for Sunday Lunch after which Colin, Nicola & The Mission Council will present to you their thoughts & deliberations on worship & how we use our time together on a Sunday. Please add your name to the 'sign-up sheet' in the Foyer.  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January: 11am: Worship 5pm: Worship & The Word  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: 11am: Worship 5pm: Sunday Worship  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January: **Big Collection Concert** with the Revival Gospel Choir & the Senior Band. They've sung in our Hall before & were brilliant! They are giving of their time to help us raise money for our annual appeal. More details & tickets available in the New Year.  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January: 11am: Worship 5pm: Sunday Celebration

## GENERAL BULLETIN:

Mary White & Margaret Boxell will be travelling with the Winton Corps in 2018 on their bi-annual 'Vision of Hope Mission' to the Ukraine (see Staple Diet). To help them raise their £700 each to be part of the mission, you are invited to an Open House on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm onwards at 1 Thicket Avenue BS16 4DH. Come & enjoy a minced pie & a glass of non-alcoholic mulled wine, tea or coffee while listening to Christmas music. £2.00 per person. Christmas fayre plus cakes and crumbles also on sale.

## Building Maintenance Week:

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January

On this occasion, much of the work will be conducted on the rooms behind the platform. In line with decisions made by the Mission Council on recommendations by the various groups, Paul Heath & the Business Group have some exciting plans to have music rooms, instrument rooms & meeting rooms mainly used by our young people. Remember, there will be no evening musical practices this week to give us all the opportunity to help.

The next **Mission Week** is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.



## FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN:

**Fellowship Prayer List** comprised of members of our fellowship is now available. For your copy & further details, please see Linda James.

**Remember Me:** Megan Saint has celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Bev Dickens brother **Shaun Skinner** and his family & friends  
**Peter Clark** (Paul Campbells & Catherine Reads relation)  
**Pat & Arnold Tilling**

Many of our fellowship have been unwell over the last week & are maybe missing today: Barbara Peacock who is in Southmead, Catherine Read, Linda & Rob Hall, Freya Fielding, Debbie Hatcliffe, Hilary Sims, Senan Hylton ..... and others you will know.

Rita Brooksbank, Michelle Kleinschmidt, John & Olive Sheppard, Marcus & Cath Brown, Irene Ackerman, Molly Angle, Doreen Butland, Ruth & Tom Cable, Nancy Cryer, Geoffrey Driscoll, Joan & David Jones, Joyce & Gwen Lear, David & Shirley Nokes, Madge Rickards, Valerie & Peter Scott, Francis & Ruth Shepherd, Ray & Mary Brown.