



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving

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When Jesus entered Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday riding on a donkey, he was surrounded by cheering crowds waving palm leaves and enjoying a real party atmosphere. Many were there because they had heard of the miraculous things that Jesus had been doing, and were hugely encouraged by the message of hope that he brought. As Christians, we know that there is still hope and healing through the name of Christ and we can support each other, our health services and our decision makers through prayer.

Last Sunday our youth group were looking at Paul's epistles and decided to write some to our church, to encourage us in the same way Paul did throughout the New Testament, and we will be including all these letters in our bulletin over the coming few weeks. As a taster of what is to come, these words of encouragement are sent from Jacob Risdale:

Dear Church,

I hope you are all well and that you are feeling God's love at this time.

Let us be thankful for God's love. We all need to remember that even if we cannot meet together in church, we can pray for each other and ourselves through our wonderful connection to God.

We will all get through this with God's love.

WEEKLY PROGRAMME:

All activities in our buildings are currently suspended in line with government advice in the fight against the corona virus.

HOLY WEEK:

Holy week has begun. Usually we have the opportunity to meet together in lots of different ways at this time of year to reflect on the Easter Story. This year we invite you and your family to take part in a 'Virtual Easter Egg Hunt'. Instead of hunting for eggs, we will hunt through scripture for ways to **#stayclose** and use photos in a creative way. This is something all of us can take part in - young and old - if you live on your own, or with your family. For those of you without access to the internet, you will have a sheet in your mailing this week. For those online, have a look at the attachment on your email. It all starts on Palm Sunday.

CAMEO:

It is with regret that we have had to cancel CAMEO along with all other activities within our hall, but please be assured that CAMEO will be back as soon as we are able with a number of exciting and creative projects for you to enjoy. God Bless you all and please stay safe.

FLOWERS:

In more normal times, we would have been blessed by flowers on our Altar table, often given to mark special occasions and memories. Although we are not meeting in our hall at the moment, we don't want to pass by those treasured times. The flowers today would have been from Alison and Tom in memory of Ruth.

SALVATION ARMY PUBLICATIONS:

During this unusual time, the Salvation Army weekly publications have been put online, so although we have been delivering papers to people's homes, you can read the whole thing online for free. The links are:

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

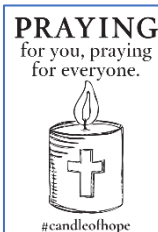
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/warcry

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvationist

So even if you don't normally receive a copy you can have a read!

PRAYERS OF HOPE

During the Corona Virus Pandemic thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7pm every Sunday evening. A specific time to pray for the current crisis, for people we know who are affected, for key workers, for leaders making decisions. Some have been lighting a candle in their window at this time as a visual sign of their prayer. I would encourage you to join in with this. Posters have been prepared for people to put in their windows so that people walking past know they are being prayed for too - what a fantastic witness! For those of you receiving post from us, we have included a poster in your pack this week, for those of you on-line, please click on the link in the e-mail or the picture to the right and print off the poster, if you are able to (there's a colour-in one too if you prefer!). Why not keep the poster in your window all week, you never know what conversations it may spark with your neighbours. And Light a candle at 7pm on Sunday and join in prayer with thousands of others. You may like to take a picture of your candle and post it on social media **#PrayersOfHope** **#stayclose**.



WELCOME TO OUR FELLOWSHIP:

We welcome 2 families to our fellowship this week as their 'transfers' have come through, adherents Michael and Claire Blowers and soldiers Naomi Blowers, and Andy and Emily Elliott along with their daughter Grace (not a soldier yet, but give her time!). There are other transfers in the pipeline so watch this space.

FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN: staplehillprayers@gmail.com

It has been encouraging to hear that whilst we are in social isolation, many have been taking the opportunity use the time to phone and contact people within the church. We have tried to set up a system whereby everyone should have a regular phone call, but like all systems there are teething problems. If you have not had a call, let me know. With everything that is happening mistakes can happen.

Sadly, we have heard the news that David Tovey's sister, Kathleen, has passed away this week in hospital as a victim of the corona virus. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Brenda Driscoll was moved on Saturday from Southmead Hospital into Warmley House Care Home.

We've not heard of any of additional members of our fellowship having illness etc., but our thoughts continue to be with Beryl and Malcolm.

Please let us know if you are poorly, so that we can support you. Also, please make use of our prayer network: staplehillprayers@gmail.com

The Emergency Food Parcels project is going well, and we were blessed to have a contribution from Morrisons this week. We are still short of meat products and long-life milk if you are going to shops and can put a couple of extra things in your bag - obviously after you've paid for them!