



# Staple Hill

## Local ... Lively ... Loving

**Majors Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones**

**Corps Officers:** 0117 9565232

**Corps Website:** [www.staplehillsa.uk](http://www.staplehillsa.uk)

**Hall Address:**

21 Broad Street, Staple Hill BS16 5LN

Telephone: 0117 9569733



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**Bulletin e-mail:** [staplehillbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillbulletin@gmail.com)

### *The Patience of a Saint*

Last Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup>) was St George's Day, the patron saint of England who became a Christian martyr in 303 A.D. St George is usually depicted in armour and riding on a horse (representing his military rank) with a dragon (representing Satan) cowed at the horses feet.

St George was a Tribune (Colonel) in the Roman army, from an aristocratic, Christian family in Cappadocia (Turkey). When Emperor Diocletian decided to wage war against the Christian Religion, St George resigned his military commission and went to the emperor to voice his objection to the war. His courage led to his imprisonment, torture and eventual death – but he would not give up his faith!

The Rev. Butler' commentary on the 'Lives of the Saints' records this observation under St George: *"Every true disciple must be .... ready to lose all, and suffer anything rather than offend God. There is no virtue more necessary, nor of which the exercise ought to be more frequent, than patience. ... it is only in patience that we are to possess our souls. This affords us comfort in all our sufferings and maintains our souls in unshaken tranquillity and peace. This is true greatness of mind and the virtue of heroic souls."*

Are you a heroic soul with the patience of a saint?

*Paul Heath*

## WEEKLY PROGRAMME:

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

## THE GREAT BIBLE BEST BITS:

We hope you have found our online worship helpful over the last few weeks.

Today we are starting a new focus for our online worship: 'The Great Bible Best Bits'. We will be looking at some of the best known parts of the Bible and seeing what they have to say to us today. We wonder what your best bit of the Bible is?

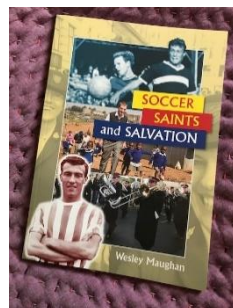


It may be a story, a chapter or just a single verse. It would be great to share these - please video yourself telling us what your Bible best bit is and why - but the video has to be less than a minute long! Please send them to Nicola or Colin and we'll share as many as we can each Sunday over the coming weeks. If you don't fancy videoing yourself then why not write it down in a couple of sentences and we can include it in the bulletin - send it to [staplehillbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillbulletin@gmail.com) or give Colin or Nicola a call.

Many of us are missing seeing each other at the moment so this week we're introducing 'An Extra Slice': a weekly opportunity to meet together (online) to just chat and continue the conversation from our Sunday worship. You will have received details about this via email, but if you still haven't replied and want to get involved then let Colin or Nicola know.

## **SOCCER, SAINTS AND SALVATION:**

A few years ago, Wes Maughan came to talk to us about his experiences of being a Christian whilst also being a professional footballer. Wes played for Southampton amongst others and had a career in football lasting many years. He has now written a book, 'Soccer, Saints and Salvation', which is an excellent read. Priced at £7 a limited supply is available from Hilton Baker 07851 121571 and for each book sold £2 is donated to The Kenya Trust.



## **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:**

This was posted by the Salvation Army International Development department this week. Well worth listening to if you can follow one of these links below.

### **Are we perfectly positioned to respond to the Pandemic?**

The Salvation Army is currently present in 131 countries. The breath of work and contexts in which it operates is enormous. So how do we stay connected and true to our core mission values despite having to operate in a multitude of cultural contexts and languages? Listen to Elise Belcher (working in International Development Office in Sweden & Latvia Territory, and previously in the International Headquarters) reflect on the role of the International Headquarters in coordinating the territorial responses around the globe. And especially during disasters - can we utilise The Salvation Army networks which are deeply embedded in local knowledge and understanding to respond effectively to communities that are most effected?

Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/2HkjH1I>

iTunes: <https://apple.co/2PvFulj>

Castbox: <https://bit.ly/2SN4LhE>

**FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN:** [staplehillprayers@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillprayers@gmail.com)

Whilst we are unaware of anyone who is poorly at this time, we are conscious that there are a number of our fellowship who have serious underlying health conditions, for which their visits to hospital have been stopped so that they do not come into contact with any infections or because treatment would lower their immune systems. Our thoughts and prayers are with those in this uncertain time.

Our congratulations go to Josh Dickens who celebrates his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday this week on the 29<sup>th</sup> April. Happy Birthday Josh.

