



# 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

[contactstaplehill@gmail.com](mailto:contactstaplehill@gmail.com)

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

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

### *Renew Our Strength*

*Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

[Isaiah 40 v 30-31](#)

This was the reading that Jon Bessex chose to share with the Senior Band this week as part of our weekly devotions. It was a truly thought-provoking interlude within an exceptionally busy and somewhat stressful week (thanks Jon!). But I am not going to concentrate on the content of what Jon shared – but the reading itself. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of those verses are very familiar – but it is strange how often your eyes can simply skip across the page to your favourite passages without actually taking in what goes before.

This is a verse of reassurance. Nobody's perfect. Nobody is beyond the reach of human frailty. We all are prone to falling short of the Christian ideal – even when we do wear a fancy uniform! And yet, the Lord is always there to pick us up again, to forgive us for our imperfections and renew our strength.

*Paul Heath*

## PRAYER DIARY:

This week, please pray for the following:

24 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth & Elise B; Esther D; Phil & Tash J; Jen & Les P; John W; Karen R; Paul & Brenda C; Francis & Ruth S
25 <sup>th</sup>	Bethany D; Elsie & Mike D; Bev W; Doris P; Geoff P; Glynn E; Beth E; Emma, Sam, Noah & Riley R
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah & Tim B; Morag F; Esther K; Lynette P; Sophie & Kathleen C; Mary Br; Debra & Mark H; Sue M
27 <sup>th</sup>	Derek & Margaret B; Yolanda, Jeovany & Maria K; Catherine R; Gary, Joanne, Jacob & Emily R; Nneka H
28 <sup>th</sup>	Jon & Peri H; Joyce L; Doreen R; Sheila F; Paul & Heather C; Paul, Tracey, Victoria & Olivia H
29 <sup>th</sup>	Staple Hill Corps
30 <sup>th</sup>	Staple Hill Community

## CARTRIDGE ENVELOPES:

We are now able to offer the opportunity for members of the corps who have been collecting their offering envelopes at home to hand these in each week at the corps.

Cartridge envelopes can be dropped off during the food parcels distribution held at our hall during the week between 11:00 - 12:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Your envelopes will be collected from one of our members at the main entrance only. The envelopes will be securely stored and processed in the normal way.

If you are unable to make any of these days, and would like your envelopes to be collected from you, please contact or leave a message on the corps office telephone (0117 9569733) and arrangements will be made to collect them from you.

## **CORPS PAPERS:**

We had a very good response with the last appeal for donations to help cover the cost of the corps papers being delivered to many of you. We would again welcome any donations to cover the cost. If you would like to make a donation you can do so on the same days as above. Please put your donation in an envelope marked 'paper donation' so it can be allocated to the correct account.

## **PRAYER NETWORK:**

The prayer network a ([staplehillprayers@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillprayers@gmail.com)) have been praying this week for:

- Tony (Isle of Wight) critically ill in Hospital and unresponsive
- Gwen who is far from well.

## **ACROSS OUR FELLOWSHIP:**

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Yvonne, Marc and the family on Wednesday at the funeral of Ken.
- We will be thinking and praying for Catherine Reed this week as her sister, Dorothy Hunt, is laid to rest on Thursday in Canterbury.

We also remember and pray for all those within our fellowship who are struggling. Our Great Bible Best Bit this week is Psalm 121 - Where does my help come from? It comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth - reach out to God to help, strengthen and sustain you at this time.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE FROM OUR OFFICERS:**

Dear Friends,

It was the 23<sup>rd</sup> March - 5 months ago - that the Prime Minister addressed the country and told us that we must stay at home. Whilst some of the restrictions have been lifted many are still in place, especially in relation to Churches. No singing, no band, social distancing, facemasks, one-way systems, registers of attendance are just some of the requirements that are expected to continue.

Throughout we have tried to maintain on-line worship and discipleship; make sure there is regular contact through phone calls and mailings; and for those who are not on-line the option of 'catching-up' with the meeting via electronic devices. We are not perfect, so if you feel that we have not responded to your situation, then please contact us.

When will we reopen? We wish we could set a date and everything return to the way it was. Unfortunately, that is just not possible, with many still at risk from infection. As you will know, the schools are returning at the beginning of September and we feel that it would be prudent to wait to see how this affects the spread of the virus. It is, therefore, unlikely that we will recommence our worship or community programme until after the Autumn half-term, although we will regularly review this with the Mission Council.

We do appreciate that this will be extremely disappointing to many and it was not an easy decision to make. However, we will maintain our on-line worship and discipleship, and renew our commitment to remaining in contact. We are also planning a few 'treats' in September and October - watch this space.

Please accept our apologies, but we, along with the mission council and a host of volunteers are trying our best to ensure that we remain Local, Lively and Loving to both you and the community of Staple Hill.

You continue to be in our prayers.

With love

Colin & Nicola

## SONGS OF PRAISE:

“Songs of Praise” this week (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, BBC1 at 1:15pm) will be *Celebrating the Salvation Army*, from the Army’s Hadleigh Farm in Essex.



**The Bandmaster celebrates the easing of the first few COVID-19 restrictions on Brass Bands**

## THE WEEK AHEAD:

All activities within our buildings continue to be suspended until it is deemed safe, but the following activities continue:

### **TODAY Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

- from 10am Lighthouse Club Session available online (ages 7-11)
- 10am Youth Group meets online (ages 11+)
- from 11am Sunday Worship available online  
['Psalm 121'](#)

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall

### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

- 2pm Extra Slice Group online
- 3.30pm Extra Slice Group online
- 7pm Extra Slice Group online
- 8.15pm Extra Slice Group online

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall
- 8.15pm Extra Slice Group online

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

- from 10am Lighthouse Club Session available online (ages 7-11)
- 10am Youth Group meets online (ages 11+)
- from 11am Sunday Worship available online  
'The Good Samaritan' [Luke 10:25-37](#)