



# Staple Hill

## Local ... Lively ... Loving

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**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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### *Looking Forward to Christmas*

Are you following the advent readings and thoughts? I am, and I think it is proving really helpful! It is so good to be forced to take a couple of minutes out of the day to think about something other than work, or the local corona virus statistics, or just daily life. Time to think on holy things.

The time of advent allows us to all prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. By this time in December in previous years, we would be out and about in our local community sharing the message of Christmas with the public through numerous carolling events and services. We would be rushing around buying presents, writing cards, doing all the things that we see as 'normal' for salvationists at this time of year. This year, however, we have more time to reflect for ourselves on what Christmas really means – and that can't be a bad thing, can it? It is an opportunity that we surely just can't afford to miss!

*For it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy". [1 Peter 1:16](#)*

*Paul Heath*

## PRAYER DIARY:

This week, please pray for the following:

6 <sup>th</sup>	Jon, Elli, Ellen & Will B; Kirsty, Mark, Oliver, Freya & Henry F; David Jo; Alison C
7 <sup>th</sup>	Beryl & Spence G; Margaret K; Jakub P; David & Hazel L; Andy, Emily, Grace & Archie
8 <sup>th</sup>	Orla B; Marcia G; Anne & Dennis L; Laura R; Alan & Marion R
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rita B; Linda & Rob H; Anne & Rob L; Ian & Rachel R; Myriam, Steve & Noah S; Olive & John S
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gary M; Roy R; Jason R; Christine K; Chris, Holly, Dylan, Oscar & Charlie S
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rita A; Wesley C; Keith, Mary, Dennis, Victoria & Sophia H; Hazel & Tim S; Jay & Lydia M
12 <sup>th</sup>	Charmaine I; Shirley N; Arnold & Pat T; Sheila T; Michael & Valerie B; Hayley & Mark C

## PRAYER NETWORK:

We have thought about the following people and situations during our prayer time during this week:

- Bethany Dyer admitted to hospital for tests but now recuperating at home
- Linda Powell's two daughters and grandson who have tested positive for Covid 19
- Louise Parkes as she recovers from Covid 19
- Those involved in the Avonmouth explosion, the Emergency Services and hospitals. Not forgetting the families of those who lost their lives.

If you would like us to pray for something, then please drop us an email (a couple of sentences only, please) on [staplehillprayers@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillprayers@gmail.com).

## ACROSS OUR FELLOWSHIP:

- The service of celebration for Malcolm will take place on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm at Westerleigh Crematorium. Due to restrictions, only limited numbers can attend, but the service will be available on-line if you would like to share in this way. Please let me know if you would like to attend virtually, and we will send you the 'log on' details. Our thoughts continue to be with Gerry and her family at this sad time.
- Following a fall, Doreen has broken her arm, so our thoughts and prayers are with Doreen at this time.
- We have also heard that Ruth Barber has moved into care. If you would like to know Ruth's new contact details, please contact us [Colin]. Our thoughts and prayers are with both Ruth and Ted.
- Thanks to everyone who helped with the November mailing, along with the tech team who are uploading our daily readings on-line. We have had some positive feedback concerning the Advent readings which is encouraging. Next week we are hoping to get out our December mailing, which is the corps Christmas Card. There will also be a small gift for those who are retired.
- This week, all the Christmas food parcels have been made up and next week all the toy parcels. We will then be concentrating on Christmas Day. This year we are sending out a Christmas meal to those who are alone. If you know anyone in the Staple Hill and Mangotsfield area who might benefit from a meal on Christmas Day, please contact us. Thanks for all the volunteers who have helped and will help with our Christmas community programme.

## **ATTACK IN SULAWESI, INDONESIA:**

WITH great sadness, The Salvation Army confirms that an attack upon the Lewono Lembantongoa Outpost, Indonesia, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 has claimed the lives of four members. A Salvation Army outpost is a locality in which Army work is carried out and where it is hoped a society or corps will eventually develop.

Lewono Lembantongoa is in a very rural area of Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi, situated on the edge of the Indonesian rainforest. During the morning of 27 November, the community was subjected to a savage attack, during which The Salvation Army's building was burned down along with six homes of members. Sadly, four members of the outpost were killed.

Major Erik Kape (Divisional Commander, East Palu) and colleague officers acted immediately to support the local leaders, coordinating with police and with government officials of the Sigi Regency and Central Sulawesi Province who are increasing protection for the villages in the area and investigating the incident.

In a press statement released across Indonesia, The Salvation Army invites all churches and religious associations – along with community members – to support each other vigilantly in these days, enhancing security through strong communication networks across the villages of the area.

Territorial Commander for Indonesia, Colonel Yusak Tampai, urges Salvationists in the region to 'remain calm but alert and careful, spreading a strong message of hope and uniting in prayer to strengthen each other'. Throughout Indonesia on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Salvationists were called to observe a three-minute silence and to pray for grieving families and congregations, asking for God's peace to be poured upon the region. Some would have been gathered for public worship while others are confined to home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Noting that The Salvation Army serves in 131 countries and that the world continues to convulse with disturbing levels of violence affecting many of its

people, General Brian Peddle, international leader of The Salvation Army, denounces any such acts. 'Throughout all aspects of Salvation Army ministry and influence we work for peace,' he says.

'We find the news from Lembantongoa greatly disturbing. Our hearts go out to our people who have been victims of evil, and to the families of those whose faith have caused such harm. I call upon all Salvationists to pray for each person who has been affected, for the continuing witness of our people, and for healing in the communities. I ask our global community to join us in this prayer, and believe that as peace finds its place, evil will be defeated.

'As General, I assure our people in Indonesia of our deep love and prayers,' he concludes.

Messages of support and unity have been received from Indonesian church leaders. The Communion of Churches in Indonesia is inviting Christian families in Indonesia to light a candle at the beginning of Advent this Sunday as a symbol of the continuing hope found in Christ. The Salvation Army is a significant church presence in Indonesia, with more than 60,000 members.

The Salvation Army in Indonesia values this unity from fellow Christians and greatly welcomes prayer support from Salvationists worldwide.

*IHQ Communications  
International Headquarters*

Our Territorial Commander, Commissioner Anthony Cotterill, writes: *'Salvationists and friends from all parts of the UKI Territory stand in prayer and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Indonesia. I call for fervent prayer from across the territory for all affected by this outrage especially the families, community and the leaders of The Salvation Army in Indonesia, including our own Lieut-Colonels Cedric and Lyn Hills.'*

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

- Staple Hill Carol Service:
  - We shall hold an online Christmas Carol Service featuring all of Staple Hill musical sections and plenty of opportunities to sing along with carols in the comfort of your own home. This will be broadcast on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.
- Christmas Eve Carols in the Square:
  - We will have an online 'Carols around the Christmas tree' on Christmas Eve – it's a shame that we can't celebrate with the whole of the Staple Hill Community in the square this year – but hopefully hundreds of us – in our '3 household' groups can join online instead!
- Christmas Day Message
  - This service will also be broadcast online this year.



# CHRISTMAS TOY & FOOD PARCELS / CHRISTMAS DAY:

## TOY & FOOD HAMPERS

- The deadline for donations of gifts for our Christmas present Appeal is tomorrow **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. We have been bowled over by people's generosity in this difficult year, thank you to all who have donated.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

- We are offering to deliver a hot dinner and other goodies to people's homes at lunchtime on Christmas Day. We will need people to make these deliveries, but are only able to use volunteers that we know for this so please offer even if it's not something you usually do.

## CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

- In order to receive the numerous donations and answer other enquiries we will open our Christmas Reception at the front entrance every Monday to Thursday from 10am to 12 noon. We will also be open on Sunday morning as well next week.

Please get in touch with Nicola about any of the above on 0117 956 9733 or [nicola.hylton-jones@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:nicola.hylton-jones@salvationarmy.org.uk)



## THE WEEK AHEAD:

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

### **TODAY Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

- from 10am Lighthouse Club Session available online (ages 7-11)
- 10am Youth Group meets online (ages 11+)
- from 11am Sunday Worship – online  
Advent 2 'Mary & the Angel' [Luke 1:26-38](#)

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception
- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception
- 11am - 12pm Food Parcels available at Hall

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

- from 10am Lighthouse Club Session available online (ages 7-11)
- 10am Youth Group meets online (ages 11+)
- 10am – 11am Christmas Reception
- from 11am Sunday Worship – online  
Advent 3 'Joseph & the Angel' [Matthew 1:18-24](#)