



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving

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Sunday 13th December 2020

Bulletin e-mail: staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Christmas 2020

[1]

Christmas this year will be different,
Disrupted by Covid-nineteen.
Many lives are now blighted by
sickness,
Or distressed by the long quarantine.

[2]

It's easy to lose all perspective
As we face isolation with fear
Of the loss of the freedoms we value
In pursuit of 'the normal' - next year.

[3]

Jesus, whose birth we remember,
In all of this anguish and strife,
Does not offer exemption from
hardship
But provides all resources for life.

[4]

He begins with the gift of forgiveness
(That purpose made clear at his birth)
Then adding new strength for each
crisis
Empowers his mission on earth.

[5]

Christ isn't confined in the bubble
Of infancy, stable and stall,
But released to the world where he's
working
To share vibrant life with us all.

[6]

Cherish the purpose of Christmas,
Embrace every gift, every grace,
Remember that Christ has endowed
you
To serve in his name - in your place.

*A poem reproduced with the kind permission of the author, Ken Lawson.
Retired officer and friend of Doris Pearce living in West Yorkshire*

PRAYER DIARY:

This week, please pray for the following:

20 th	Tom C; Olive M; Loraine B; Haydn & Trudi B; Hannah & Katie
21 st	Molly A; Ashayi. Moses, Junior & Eli C; Brenda H; Peter & Valerie S; David & Doreen S
22 nd	Laura & Neil B; Mark C; Aiden N; Charlie T; Daisy U; Brian & Pat U; David T; Jeanette N
23 rd	Ruth & Ted B, Bev, Jon, Harry, Jessica and Emily D; Kelvin & Linda J; Malcolm & Mary W, Janine J & family
24 th	Ruth & Elise B; Esther D; Phil & Tash J; Jen & Les P; John W; Karen R; Paul & Brenda C; Francis & Ruth S
25 th	Bethany D; Elsie & Mike D; Bev W; Doris P; Geoff P; Glynn E; Beth E; Emma, Sam, Noah & Riley R
26 th	Sarah & Tim B; Morag F; Esther K; Lynette P; Sophie & Kathleen C; Mary Br; Debra & Mark H; Sue M



PRAYER NETWORK:

Thankfully, we have received no prayer requests this week by the time the bulletin had to go to print.

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.

ACROSS OUR FELLOWSHIP:

- The service of celebration for Malcolm will take place on Tuesday, 15th December at 12.30pm at Westerleigh Crematorium. Due to restrictions, only limited numbers can attend but the service will be available online if you would like to share in this way. Please let me [Colin] 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.
- We have also heard that Charlie has moved to a residential home in Yate but are still awaiting details. We continue to remember in our prayers Doreen, John S, Ruth, John L and Arnold, all of whom are experiencing ill-health.
- The December mailing should go out from this weekend - thanks to our team of volunteers delivers. This month is the corps Christmas Card. We had about 50 people send greetings, which was nice - we hope you enjoy reading them. Thanks to Oliver and Kathleen for sending in pictures for our card, which we hope will make you smile. There will also be a small gift for those who are retired - if you do not get a gift, please contact me, as mistakes can happen.
- There has been a tremendous effort over the last couple of weeks to prepare our Christmas toy and food parcels. These will be delivered in the early part of next week. Thanks, again, to everyone who has been involved in this. We then start preparing for Christmas Day. If you know anyone in the Staple Hill and Mangotsfield area who might benefit from a meal on Christmas Day, please contact us.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN THANKS THE SALVATION ARMY:

HER Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by other members of the Royal Family, has today thanked The Salvation Army for its frontline work during the pandemic.



The Queen was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The Earl and Countess of Wessex and The Princess Royal for the occasion.

A Salvation Army band played a selection of carols for Her Majesty at the event for charity and key workers that was held in the grounds of Windsor Castle, just to the west of London.

The leaders of The Salvation Army's United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, Commissioners Anthony and Gillian Cotterill, spoke to Her Majesty about the movement's work supporting vulnerable people in communities.

The event was organised as a thank you to charities and key workers for their work during the pandemic and over Christmas.

Speaking of the occasion, Commissioner Anthony Cotterill said: 'It was an honour to meet Her Majesty on behalf of The Salvation Army and as a representative of all voluntary organisations who have done so much incredible service throughout the pandemic. I am greatly heartened that The Salvation Army's support for rough sleepers, survivors of human trafficking, struggling families and isolated older people throughout this very difficult year has been recognised.'

'Salvation Army volunteers, officers, members and employees have worked tirelessly since March, from providing food parcels for hungry families, to helping rough sleepers keep warm, to providing vital doorstep friendship for the isolated – they have been there no matter what. The Salvation Army has innovated and adapted to ensure our frontline of support has been there for those who need us.

'Playing carols for the Royal Family is also a wonderful highlight during our busiest of seasons.'

From a report by the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland

*IHQ Communications
International Headquarters*

CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

- Staple Hill Carol Service:
 - 'Christmas with Staple Hill Salvation Army @ home'
 - An online Christmas Carol Service will be broadcast next Sunday 20th December - so watch out for more information during the week!
- 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 has passed and once again we have been amazed by the generosity of everyone. Please look out for more details in next week's bulletin, but in the meantime, thank you so much.

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, and also Sunday morning from 10am to 11am.

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



KEYS FOR KENYA:



A new CD arranged and performed by Patricia Owen.



“For Salvationists, the act of making a difference is key to their identity as Christians. But behind every action is a deeply felt motivation, borne out of commitment and consecration. Keys for Kenya, a new recording of musical offerings by Patricia Owen, combines both worlds, being a practical fund-raising project on the one hand, and a vehicle for prayer and meditation on the other.

“The album begins suitably with an invitation to sit down in the Kingdom of God. As we accept this call to rest together with diverse others, we begin a musical reverie which describes the many influences that have informed our Christian journey. Each song has significance. Every melody is compelling.”

Extract taken from Recording Review by Len Ballantine

The CD can be ordered from the Kenya Trust website:
: www.thekenyatrust.org.uk/shop, and is just £10 plus postage.

All the proceeds from the CD will go to the Kenya Trust, and all the costs of production have been covered by a sponsor.

THE WEEK AHEAD:

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

TODAY Sunday 13th 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](#)

Monday 14th December

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception

Tuesday 15th December

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

Wednesday 16th December

- 10am - 12pm Christmas Reception

Thursday 17th December

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

Sunday 20th 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 4 The Shepherds and the Angels' [Luke 2:8-20](#)

Also - 'Christmas with Staple Hill Salvation Army @ home'