



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving

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Bulletin e-mail: staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Swarming back to Worship

Since the beginning of lockdown, my preferred office space has been the swing seat in my back garden. Whenever it has been warm and dry enough, I have set up my laptop, donned my headset, and completed my work surrounded by the sights, scents and sounds of God's wonderful creation.

During the past week, I have been watching (whilst working!) the cloud of bees and other insects gathering nectar from the ivy flowers on the hedge. They all seem so busy in their labours, so focussed on the task of gathering food for the hive. Although engaged in the same activity, they do not really come close to each other – they just carry on their work on their own. Very soon now, the bees will return to the hive to spend the winter together as one, to restore their health and prepare for another year of activity.

I feel that over the past weeks, we have been like the bees – gathering our resources together as best we can in preparation for the time when we all must return to the hive. Some have been returning, but others continue to labour on their own. However, the toils and hardships of lockdown can finally be put behind us now – next week we return to full worship within the hall. Time for us all to become one in God's house again. Time to join together in a great, harvest celebration!

Paul Heath

Do you know about this? The Salvation Army recently received a quarterly donation of £11,570.92 from AmazonSmile, thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the app.

To date, Amazon has donated a total of:

£29,042.90 to The Salvation Army

£10,771,114.58 to UK charities

When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity. AmazonSmile is also available in the Amazon Shopping App on iOS and Android phones.

NEW STAPLE HILL SALVATION ARMY CASUAL WEAR

We are planning to raise a 2nd bulk order of Staple Hill Salvation Army T-Shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, fleeces, etc. on 4th October.

If you would like to place an order, you can still do so by Sunday 3rd October. Samples are available for you to try at the Hall, along with the order form.

If you have any questions, please speak either to Myriam, Colin or Nicola.

FLOWERS:

- The flowers at the front of the hall today have been given by Beryl Gardner.

PRAYER DIARY:

We invite you to pray for the following members of our fellowship during the coming week:

13 th	Janet B; David Ja; Valerie & Martyn P; Marion W; Jill W; Hazel & Tim S; Josie K
14 th	Margaret & Peter B; Adam D; Gerry W; Alan & Francine J; Rex & Jen H; Rita B
15 th	Aimee B; Brenda D; Matt, Ruth, Isabella & Amara A; Louise P & Natalie
16 th	Margaret Be; Hannah, Nick & Arthur F-B; Garry J; Bob & Pauline P; Josh D; Robert Hi
17 th	Becky G; Joe S, Martin & Amy S & Family; Sharon D; Iris & Ivan D; Bryan & Vera R
18 th	Derek & Liz B; Gwen L; Joan W; David, Rachel, Charlotte, Georgina & Harriet N
19 th	Helen & Michael L, Gracey, Isabella, Joseph, Thomas & Leonie; Clive & Pauline E

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP:

Since the last bulletin, we have been praying for:

- Wendy, Nick and their families following Maureen Dennett's death
- Children, Young People, Teachers and other Staff as they return to school
- Sue Tucker and her family during her continued care

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.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

- We are aware that a number of people are unwell, and our thoughts and prayers are with you. In particular, we remember Arnold who is currently in Southmead, Bob who is having tests and Rita who is now at home and convalescing. Please remember our friends at this time.
- Toddler Planning Meeting - Wednesday, 15th September 2021 at 10am. If you are interested at helping and developing a new toddler group, then please come to our planning meeting on Wednesday.
- Lunch Club Planning Meeting - Thursday, 16th September 2021 at 10am. If you are interested at helping relaunch our lunch club, then please come on Thursday, as we develop an action plan for moving forward.
- Sunday Coffee. After worship every Sunday morning, would you be able to help serve refreshments? We will be starting from next week, so please contact Colin if you are able to help either every week or on a rota.

REMAINING COVID SAFE:

- Please wear a mask when entering and moving around the building
 - Face masks can be removed when seated
- Please use the hand sanitiser provided
- Please maintain a level of social distancing
- Understand that other people may feel differently to you, so please respect this
- After attending our building, please notify us if you have a positive test or you are contacted by NHS Track & Trace
- We will keep a register of attendees at all activities for Covid alerts
- On Sundays the chairs on the left-hand side will remain more distanced for those who prefer this
- If you don't want to sit next to anyone, red cards will be available to place on nearby chairs

GOD CALLS US TO BE WITNESSES FOR HIM:

As we near our return to full in-person worship on 19th September, the media team reflect on the 500+ hours of video editing, and 120+ hours of eCommunications that have gone into our online presence since the first COVID lockdown that forced our doors to corporate worship firmly closed (not including Colin & Nicola's time to prepare and pre-record every single service for us).

We've learnt a lot in that time, and this Corps has now built itself a new, modern, 'open-air' over the internet that reaches several hundred people each and every week, and despite the recent partial return to in-person worship we continue to see viewing statistics that would previously have been thought unachievable.

But now WE'RE BACK! - To allay any fears of you being in a starring role of our Sunday services that might clearly surpass Colins singing into the mic on our audio recordings of old, we thought we would share with you the plans for online worship.

From next week (19th) our Sunday morning service at 10am will be video recorded live and edited in real time. Following some final last-minute editing, it will be made live at 11:30am every Sunday on the same links that our Sunday services have been going out on over the last 18 months. We do not plan to follow most other SA Corps who are now 'live-streaming' in real time as we feel it's important to maintain some control over what goes out. For those of you that may have noticed our new website that went live during 'lockdown', you will see that there is a ready-made slot for this on the home page, along with historical service recordings.

2 new specialist cameras have been installed at the hall for this purpose, along with specific editing software.

No-one in the congregation will be asked to sing at a camera, or even dance for the audience. Below, you can see a shot of what the 2 cameras see, and as you see in the top 2 images, the cameras are seeing exactly what a photo would have seen from the back or side of the hall - mostly

the backs of heads! The camera on the left is the main view, and the one on the right is principally for picking up Colin and Nicola or zooming to whoever in the Band plays a wrong note!



This new technology allows us to zoom and move the cameras should we need to, and allows us to send out a picture within the video that will be whatever appears on the screen – usually song words, or the occasional slides, so that people watching online can really join in. Which means that for songs, it is likely most of the image will be taken by song words – as they are today. Ultimately, we are allowing anyone to join our services now, as if they were to walk through the door on Sunday morning at 9:45am.

It's time for us to 'Bounce Forward', and no doubt we'll continue to learn the best ways to do this. If you're looking at that screen and want to know more, get in touch! Our media team is small, 60% of whom are busy on Sundays in other groups as well, so we need volunteers! In the meantime, our grateful thanks to the team for getting us online just over 18 months ago. Maybe as we all enjoy our coffee after the meeting next week, we could spare a thought for the guys who are busy preparing the video for our new 11:30am "open air" activity on YouTube!

18 months on, and as we bounce from 'church on the sofa' to 'church in Gods House', Just imagine what we can all achieve together.

SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER – HARVEST CELEBRATION

This will be our Harvest Celebration. From Sunday 19th there will be only 1 meeting at 10am, with children/youth groups and coffee after the meeting. No booking required from Sunday 19th - just turn up! Some Covid measures will remain (see earlier in this bulletin) to ensure everyone feels safe.

Please come prepared to give in the Harvest Altar Service.

NEW MUSIC LEARNERS PROGRAM

On Tuesday 5th October at 6.15pm we are holding an evening where children aged 7 and above can come along to have a taster of playing an instrument and also have a taster of singing with our singing company with a view to start to play and sing weekly in rehearsals.

The session for instruments will be led by Young People's Band Leader (YPBL) Neil Baker and our new Learners' Leader Andy Elliott and then our singing session will be with our Singing Company and their leader Michelle.

Please let Neil know by Tuesday 28th September if your child would like to attend so we know how many instruments we need to clean and sanitise before the event.

In addition to this we need a supply of music stands for our learners, so if you have a functional music stand at home that is just collecting dust we can certainly make use of it.



Who would like to try a cornet?

THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY Sunday 12th September

10am	Worship
from 10am	Worship – online
11:30am	Worship
11:30am	Children’s and Youth Groups

Summer Psalms
[Psalm 103](#)

Tuesday 14th September

6:45pm	Singing Company Practice
8pm	Songster Practice

Wednesday 15th September

10am	Toddler Planning Meeting
2pm	Extra Slice Group online
3.30pm	Extra Slice Group online
7pm	Extra Slice Group online
8.15pm	Extra Slice Group online

Thursday 16th September

10am	Lunch Club Planning Meeting
8.15pm	Extra Slice Group online

SUNDAY 19th September – HARVEST CELEBRATION

10am	All Age Worship
from 11:30am	Worship – online
11:30am	Children’s and Youth Groups

FURTHER AHEAD:

Friday 8th October

7:30pm	‘Friday Night is Music Night’ - a free concert
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