



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving



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1st Sunday in Advent

*Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat.
Please put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do.
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God Bless You!*

The old mummer's verse always comes to mind as we enter the Advent season and start Christmas carolling. It seems so appropriate for the Salvation Army ... although perhaps we wouldn't be too impressed to find just a ha'penny in the collecting tin at the end of a couple of hours of playing!

We are always so generously supported by members of the public during this time of year. People give whatever they can because they know and trust that the Salvation Army will use the money to help those who are most in need, those who are unable to find that spare ha'penny. Through us, others will receive God's blessing this Christmas.

It is humbling to be viewed in that way. May our actions through the coming month live up to the expectations people put upon us.

Paul Heath

TERRITORIAL APPOINTMENTS CONFERENCE:

The Territorial Appointments Conference is running from Sunday 27th November through to Thursday 2nd December. This time will be held in praying and considering appointments for the General change in July 2022. Major Jean Harris will be sharing on behalf of our division of Severn and Somerset.

- Take time to think and pray for our Personnel team led by Lieut Colonel Beverley McCombe, that they will be given discernment and guidance by the Holy Spirit to lead these days through in a manner of calmness, peace and understanding.
- Pray for Jean and the other Divisional leaders who will come with Corps and Centres requiring Officers to fill these appointments and with Profiles of Officers who they feel would be right for appointments. These are precious days when names of people and the names of appointments are placed before God. May the Holy Spirit guide that for each appointment the right Officer will be appointed. We pray too for the many appointments that may not be filled due to the shortage of Officers.

Please find some time each day to uplift our colleagues before God.

LOVING LOCAL WEEK:

Thursday 2nd to Friday 10th December

During this time, we will be particularly focussing on preparing to help our local community in practical ways over the Christmas period. 'Loving Local' week will include making up toy and food hampers, goody bags, gifts and goodies for Christmas Day, outreach at Christmas on the Hill, band visits to residential homes and supporting St Peter's Hospice in Light Up a Life. All of this is a team effort and requires lots of help. All the Extra Slice groups will be participating in different tasks during 'Loving Local' week, so if you're not a member of one of these groups but want to help please speak to Nicola.

FLOWERS:

The advent wreath has been provided by Gerry, in memory of Malcolm's birthday.

NEW ADHERENT:

Today we have the pleasure of enrolling Bethany Dyer as an adherent, congratulations Bethany on the decision to make this next step on your faith journey. Please continue to support Bethany in prayer and in other ways.

HELP NEEDED PLEASE:

The collectors' rota for all the carolling engagements is now on the noticeboard – please offer to help where you can, thank you.

Our Christmas reception is now open. There is a sheet on the noticeboard - if you are able to cover any times, please write your name on the list. We just need people to welcome those who come into the building to donate goods and money and answer any other enquiries as needed. Any questions please see Nicola.

As last year, we will need drivers to deliver Christmas dinner and other packages to people in Christmas day. Our Christmas Day meeting is going ahead at 11am and deliveries will be made after that. If you are able to help please see Nicola or David.

THANKS:

We have been blessed, humbled and overwhelmed by the many prayers, the care and offers of practical help and assistance extended to us over the last month. Thank you all, so much.

Les & Jenny

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO CORPS MEMBERS:

This year we will once again be using our post box for Christmas cards to corps members.

- Please only include cards for people who attend our church or people who are on our 'Wish You Were Here' List.
- Please write FULL names clearly on the envelopes
- The post box will only be available from Sunday 28th November to Sunday 5th December.

Donations for the 'postage' will be greatly received and used to fund our Youth Group. Thank you.

PEOPLE:

- We were sad to learn that Wesley's sister was promoted to glory last weekend and our thoughts are with Wesley and his family at this time. We continue to remember Sarah and her family following the loss of her mother.
- Bob, Clive and Jill remain in our prayers along with Rita whose scheduled operation was postponed this week, and Tracey H's father who has had major surgery this week.

THE SALVATION ARMY NEED YOUR IDEAS!

Territorial Headquarters invites everyone linked to The Salvation Army (volunteer, employee, officer, member, friend) to have a say on what is needed for local mission to flourish. A survey is running online here;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G88DPLV>

and in *Salvationist* (**Survey closes this week - 30th November**).

You can also email comments to transformation@salvationarmy.org.uk. We would encourage you to get involved – we want Staple Hill Salvation Army's voice to be heard!

Lt. COLONELS (R) ROBERT & BRONWEN MENARY:

We were appointed to Staple Hill in 1970 and in four years we enrolled 104 new soldiers. We have three boys, Robert, Andrew and Philip. Robert and Andrew became senior soldiers while at Staple Hill. Robert, now retired, gained two degrees and having started as a Probation Officer finished up as a Director in the Probation Service in charge of Devon, Cornwall and Dorset with over 100 Probation officers and a total staff of almost 500 under his leadership. Currently he serves as chairman on one of several panels that choose new Court Judges.

Andrew started as a barrister and is now the Chief Judge in Liverpool High Court. He also sits at times in the Appeal Court in London and also teaches new Judges. Philip who was in the YP band under Reg at Staple Hill was a Police Inspector through the troubles in Northern Ireland. For his outstanding contribution to certain aspects of Police work he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal, QOM.

Our four years at Staple Hill was one of the steps in the ladder in what they have achieved.

Bronwen and I have reached a stage when health is failing and I have just been stopped from driving my car after 50 years because I am having lots of health tests after two sudden (undiagnosed) drop attacks. Bron, being chair-bound, is very much an invalid. In retirement I led a weekly Corps Bible class for almost 20 years. I still contribute to the weekly news, known as 'Outlook' that the officers issue every weekend - especially during Covid19.

After serving as DC in Ireland for 6 years during the 'Troubles' I was Awarded 'The Ram Butler Award' for what I sought to achieve for Prison Officers who suffered severe intimidation by the terrorist prisoners. The award was presented by Princess Anne at Lambeth Palace in London in 1988. No DCs become Lt. Colonels in those days but for what I had done in the Ireland situation I was given this rank because it was something very different and called for very wise and careful leadership - meaning that the Salvation Army crossed 'the divide' and was accepted on both sides as being impartial. God bless. Bert

CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL

Saturday 4th December 2021

As, in previous years, we are committed to supporting Christmas on the Hill. In addition to the band playing, throughout the day we will be serving tea and coffee from the front door. If you are able to help this initiative, please let me (Colin) know.

ADVENT READINGS 2021

As we enter Advent this weekend, the discipleship team have produced a booklet of daily readings, which will be available for collection this Sunday (28th). Last year was well received and we commend this to you as an opportunity to prepare for the coming of Immanuel, God with Us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & HOW TO BOOK:

- Saturday 4th Dec. 10am-4pm **Christmas on the Hill**
 - *Take away refreshments served at our front door*
- Sunday 5th Dec. 5pm **'Light up a Life'**
 - *booking required, Senior Band do not need to book:*
 - <https://stpetershospice.enthuse.com/ps/event/LightupaLifeDec2021>
- Sunday 19th Dec. 10am **Family Carol Service**
- Sunday 19th Dec. 5pm **Carol Service**
 - *booking required, Senior Band/Songsters do not need to book:*
 - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-carol-service-2021-tickets-212708846887>
- Christmas Eve 5pm **Carols in the Square**
- Christmas Day 11am **Christmas Day meeting**

If you are unable to book online, please phone Colin and Nicola instead.

Please pick up a copy of the whole Christmas programme from the foyer.



SpongeGod SquarePants
Last Sunday's Sermon...God is like a spiritual
sponge - taking away all our anxiety

THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY Sunday 28th November

- 10am All Age Worship
Followed by tea & coffee
Worship will be available online later in day
- 11:30am Children's Church and Youth Activities
- 4pm Family Crafts (**sorry - all tickets sold out**)
- 5pm Band at Jake's lights in aid of Macmillan

'A baby like no other. A baby who is God'
[Phil. 2v5-11](#)

Tuesday 30th November

- 10:30am Extra Slice Group at the hall (Kelvin)
- 6:15pm YP Band Practice
- 7:15pm Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 1st December

- 9:30am & 11am Tots on the Hill (booking required)
- 3.30pm Extra Slice Group online (Gerry)
- 7:45pm Extra Slice Group at Linda's
- 8.15pm Extra Slice Group online (Beth)

Thursday 2nd December

- 12:30pm Lunch Club
- 7:45pm Extra Slice Group at Colin & Nicola's
- 8.15pm Extra Slice Group online (Ian & Rachel)

Saturday 4th December

- 10am - 4pm Christmas on the Hill

SUNDAY 5th December

- 10am Toy Service (*wear your Christmas jumpers!*)
Followed by tea & coffee
Worship will be available online later in day
- 11:30am Children's Church and Youth Activities
- 11:45am Band at residential homes
- 5pm Light up a Life with St Peter's Hospice (*booking required*)

'A baby like no other. Announced like no other'
[Luke 1:26-28](#)