



# Staple Hill

## Local ... Lively ... Loving

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**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

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### *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent*

Now we are in December, we can finally start to let all those Christmas feelings out. I am already on the count down for the number of days I have left in work this year, I've started my Christmas shopping and I've even got the turkey in the freezer!

Today, we will share in two key events that show that Christmas is fast approaching: our annual Toy Service and the Light up a Life service.

The Toy Service is an opportunity to buy a gift for someone we do not know ... to bring a little of the joy of Christmas into the lives of those for whom each day can be a struggle. We cannot imagine how much these gifts mean to those who receive them – but it is something that our corps and the wider community have taken to heart. It encapsulates the spirit of Christmas for me. The Light up a Life service, in conjunction with St Peter's Hospice, is another one of those events that has become synonymous with the start of the Christmas season. Christmas can be difficult for many people who miss their loved ones, and this service provides an opportunity to remember them, and celebrate their lives. It is such a moving and poignant event.

Both these services have a focus purely on others, and I think that is such an important concept for us all early in the advent season.

*Paul Heath*

## COVID RESTRICTIONS:

As you know the government has tightened up restrictions this week in various public places. It is expected that the government will publish specific updates to the restrictions affecting churches next week. In the meantime, after discussion with DHQ, we would encourage everyone to keep each other safe with the following measures:

- Please **use the sanitiser** and wash hands carefully on entry to the building and when moving around
- We advise **masks to be worn** at all times, even when sitting down
- We advise everyone to take a **lateral flow** test before attending a meeting, especially the carol services
- We will temporarily **stop serving refreshments** after the Sunday meeting as this is a high risk time.
- We will continue to **open windows** even when it is cold so come prepared for that.
- Please **let us know** if you experience Covid symptoms or have a positive test after attending the building.

This time last year, we were unable to meet together, it is so good that we are able to this year and we want to keep it that way by keeping each other safe, thank you for your understanding.

## THANK YOU:

I'm sure you'll remember that Derek Boxell undertook Trekfest recently and we want to give a big thank you to Derek, he has raised £517.50 (and this is not including gift aid which will be added later). Thank you, Derek.

## **LOVING LOCAL WEEK:**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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.

As last year, we will need drivers to deliver Christmas dinner and other packages to people on 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.

Over the Christmas period, we always need to undertake trips to the dump and to charity shops, if you are available to use your car in this way, please speak to Colin or Nicola.

## **ADVENT READINGS:**

We had positive feedback concerning the Advent readings, and I would like to express my thanks to Linda for the text, Neil for the Pictures, Michelle for arranging the readers for the on-line daily upload, and to Mark for making the on-line daily upload possible. Thank you [Colin].

## **PRAYER REQUESTS DURING THE PAST WEEK:**

- David. Son of Liz & Matthew Gillmore (Daughter and Son in law of previous COs Major's Ian and Helen Urmston) who was born prematurely on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and underwent emergency surgery on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- Kim who has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease.
- Samantha and Callum who were waiting to find out if their Daughter Ruby will need heart surgery.
- Rita had surgery on Friday. Please pray for her as she recovers.
- Charlie Turnbull is very unwell. Please pray for him and his family at this time.

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).

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS TO CORPS MEMBERS:**

**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY** to use 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
- Donations for the 'postage' will be greatly received and used to fund our Youth Group

## **PEOPLE:**

- Our thoughts continue to be with those in our fellowship who are poorly. In particular we think on Bob, Clive, Rita, Jill, Tracey's dad, and Les. Yesterday, I received a phone call from Charlie T's daughter to say that he was far from well. Please continue to uphold our friends in your thoughts and prayers.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & HOW TO BOOK:**

- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5pm **'Light up a Life'**
  - *booking required, Senior Band do not need to book:*
    - <https://stpetershospice.enthuse.com/ps/event/LightUpaLifeDec2021>
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10am **Family Carol Service**
  - *No booking required*
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5pm **Carol Service**
  - *booking required, Senior Band/Songsters do not need to book:*
    - **Currently this is full according to the online booking tool. However, if you require a space please speak to Nicola as she is holding an 'extra' list at present.**
- 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.



**It's the Toy Service again!**

# THE WEEK AHEAD:

## TODAY Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Carolling 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](#)

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December

***LAST DAY TO BRING TOYS & GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS APPEAL***

- 6:30pm Loving Local Week – Linda's Group at the hall

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

- 10:30am Loving Local Week – Kelvin's Group at the hall

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

- 9:30am & 11am Tots on the Hill (booking required)
- 10.30pm Loving Local Week – Gerry's Group at the hall
- 3.30pm Loving Local Week – Gerry's Group online
- 8.15pm Loving Local Week – Beth's Group at the hall

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

- 3pm – 4.30pm Small band at Henleaze school

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December

- 10am – 12noon Carolling at Tesco's, Yate
- 10am – 12noon Carolling at Sainsbury's, Emerson's Green

## SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> December

- 10am All Age Worship  
Followed by tea & coffee  
*Worship will be available online later in day*
- 11:30am-1:30pm Children's Church and Youth rehearsal for Family Carol Service
- 11:45am Carolling at residential homes

'A baby like no other. Visitors like no other'  
[Luke 2: 8-20](#)