



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving



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Back to Work

For many of us, this week has seen a return to work, to school or to university. As always, the Christmas break just doesn't ever seem quite long enough – and a return to the daily grind of everyday life comes around all too quickly!

No matter what we do for a living, our lives can become a bit of a drudge - each day a round of uninspiring, tedious activities that we simply must do again and again punctuated by the briefest periods of excitement or stimulation.

The way we approach that repetition is an indicator of our spiritual health – we can either grumble and get depressed, or we can take those tasks (no matter how mundane, humble, or trivial) and gift them to the Lord. If whatever we do is done for Christ, each day is going to be actually worth living and we will be amazed at the joy and meaning we find in even the most ordinary of tasks.

The return to work suddenly doesn't seem so bad, does it?

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,
not for human masters. [Colossians 3:23](#)*

Paul Heath

PEOPLE:

- We were saddened by the news that Bob had been Promoted to Glory last week and our thoughts continue to be with Pauline and her family. The date for Bob's funeral is Friday, 28th January. We will be meeting at Westerleigh at 11.45am and then returning to the hall for a service of celebration which will commence at 1.00pm.
- We were also sad to learn that Joan Ashmead passed away just before Christmas on the 22nd December. Joan was a member of our Friendship Club, a regular attender of Coffee mornings, and occasionally attended worship on a Sunday. We have been asked to conduct Joan's funeral, which will be a Westerleigh on Wednesday 19th January at 11.30am.
- There are a number of our people within our fellowship who are living with serious illnesses and our thoughts continue to be with them. In particular, we remember Clive who is commencing a further course of cancer treatment this week. Our thoughts are with Clive, Pauline and their family.
- Gary Matthew, our wonderful treasurer, is 60 today! Unfortunately Gary is working today, but, Gary, we hope that you have a lovely time celebrating this milestone.
- Just a note of thanks to our Tech team for keeping us together in recent weeks - thank you.

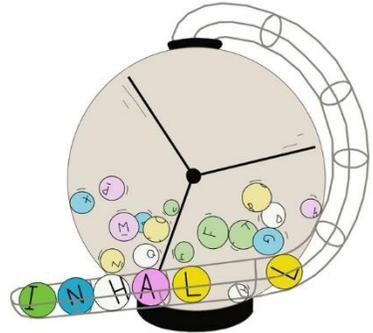


THANKS:

Margaret Boxell would like to thank those who have sent cards, texts, made phone calls and sent flowers following her recent time in hospital. The many prayers that have been made were (and still are) very much appreciated too. She is making progress and is hoping it's not too long now until she will be back to full health.

WORSHIP DURING THE WEEK AHEAD:

From this Sunday, we will have activities in our building again. However, as you are aware, the Covid numbers are again very high and the Omicron variant is very transmissible. With this in mind we are emphasising extra safety measures and continuing to offer a choice of in person and online events so that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the way they are comfortable with:



The worship lottery during a pandemic

Safety measures when in our building:

- We encourage you to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending our building
- All windows will remain open at all times, so please wear an extra layer
- Please wash your hands or use sanitiser on arrival and regularly whilst attending
- Please wear a mask at all times (unless you are exempt or when playing in band or singing in Songsters/Singing Company, speaking/reading from the platform)
- All chairs will be spaced further apart than previously
- Red cards are available if you don't want anyone to sit too close
- Your attendance will be noted so that we can contact you if someone close by has tested positive
- Please notify us if you test positive after attending
- We will increase the cleaning of 'touch points' before activities
- There will be no refreshments served after the Sunday meeting

With these safety measures in mind, the activities listed on the back page will start again.

THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY Sunday 9th January - COVENANT SUNDAY:

10am Sunday meeting - *at the hall and available online later*
'Being Together to: Love God and Love Others'
(Matthew 22:34-40)

Following this, the Children and Youth will meet in their groups

Tuesday 11th January:

11am Extra Slice Group at the hall with Kelvin
- *no refreshments beforehand*

6:15pm YP Band rehearsal

7:15pm Singing Company rehearsal

8pm Senior Band Rehearsal

Wednesday 12th January:

9.30am & 11am Tots on the Hill - *booking in required*

3.30pm Online Extra Slice group with Gerry

7.45pm Extra Slice Group at Linda's

8.15pm Online Extra Slice Group with Beth

Thursday 13th January:

12.30pm Lunch Club - *for those who are booked in*

7.45pm Extra Slice Group at Colin & Nicola's

8.15pm Online Extra Slice Group with Rachel & Ian

Sunday 16th January:

10am Sunday meeting - *at the hall and available online later*
'Being Together: To Share the Good News'

Following this, the Children and Youth will meet in their groups

