



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving



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Rhythms of Ministry

This is an extract from 'The Ministers Thought' that Colin prepared for the April edition of 'Downend Voice':

One of the rhythms of our ministry, like all churches, it to support those families who have lost loved ones. On average we support a family and officiate at a funeral every 6½ weeks and recently we conducted a service of celebration for those families who lost loved ones during the pandemic and were not able, due to restrictions, to say goodbye surrounded by family and friends. In preparation I looked through 25 'Order of Services' and collated all the music, readings and songs that had been used. In doing so, it was interesting to note some of the music that had been chosen, especially the music to exit the chapel. Many families wanted something less mournful and more celebratory of the joy and privilege of knowing a loved one. Here are some on the titles: Bring me Sunshine ... Dance the Night Away ... In the Mood ... Moon River ... New York, New York ... Que Sera Sera ... Somewhere Over the Rainbow ... Stand by Me ... Wind beneath my Wings ... Wonderful World ... You're my World.

Good Friday is a time when we remember the death of Jesus, a time when the disciples thought their world with all their hopes had collapsed. But Easter Sunday brings with it hope in Jesus' resurrection.

Christians today continue to hold on to the hope that the resurrection brings. The hope that one day, we will live with Jesus in heaven, a place where there will be no more suffering, death or hardship – a bright tomorrow. Whether this is your belief or not, perhaps you would hold with words from ‘Bring me Sunshine’:

*Bring me sunshine
In your smile
Bring me laughter
All the while
In this world where we live
There should be more happiness
So much joy you can give
To each brand new bright tomorrow*

*Bring me fun
Bring me sunshine
Bring me Love*

Major Colin

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Thanks to Peter who has supplied the custard creams again for this week's coffee fellowship. Thanks Peter.

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP:

We are really thankful to Gerry for her oversight of the Prayer Fellowship over the past months during Rita's operation and convalescence. From the 18th April, Rita will be resuming her leadership of this vital part of our fellowship.

If you want to 'post' a prayer or be part of the fellowship, please continue to email: staplehillprayers@gmail.com

FLOWERS:

Andy and Emily Elliott have donated the flowers at the front of the hall today to mark their 5th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

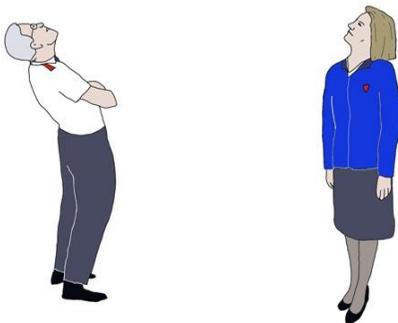
BUILDING PROJECT:

Please look out for the next issue of the Building Project Newsletter available today at the hall or in your bulletin email. Any feedback to Colin, Nicola or Myriam at 11.45am in person or on email by Monday lunchtime or please just speak to us anytime! Thank you.

EASTER SIGN UPS:

We have lots of interesting things planned for the Easter period – all of which are free. For the majority of events no booking is required, but there are two things that you need to add your name to a sign-up sheet on the noticeboard (old school!):

- Easter Faith Supper & Quiz: please add your name and the dish you want to bring to share
- Easter Sunday Breakfast: A 5-piece cooked breakfast with toast and drink: please add your name for catering purposes (no charge but donations welcome)



**The ceiling fan seemed a good idea
when they chose it on Palm Sunday!**

CORPS PROGRAMME DIARY – STATISTICS:

It's that time of year again when we record all our attendances for every activity. Leaders/ secretaries please remember to send your numbers to Deb Hatcliffe each week (Saturday 26th March until Friday 20th May).

PEOPLE:

There are a number of families who have recently been bereaved of a loved one. Please pray, support and encourage our friends at this time.

At the time of writing, Morag and Ruth are both in hospital, so please uphold them in prayer. John Sheppard, has been in hospital, but remains very poorly, so please remember both John and Olive. There are a number of our fellowship who continue to live with serious health conditions and our thoughts are with them. In addition, there are a number of people who have COVID at the moment, so please look after yourself.

Following on from 'baby news' last week, we are pleased to announce that Louise and Jim are expecting - congratulations to them.

As mentioned last week, Hilton and Lilian's son, Jonathan will be marrying Naomi on Monday, 11th April at Holmewood Hall in Cambridgeshire. Our thoughts are with the 'Baker' family as they celebrate this very special occasion.

ASBESTOS SURVEY:

This wasn't completed, we are awaiting a new date.

THANK YOU:

Margaret Boxell would like to pass on her thanks to everyone for the cards, messages, phone calls and flowers that she received following the Promotion to Glory of her dad. She really felt supported, loved and surrounded in prayer during what has been a difficult time.

BOUNCING FORWARD REVIEW:

Thank you to the 95 people who completed a bouncing forward survey. We were able to look at some of the comments and results at the Mission Council on Monday. You will remember from the survey that the timetable for the review is:

14 th - 27 th March:	Complete Survey
28 th March – 4 th April:	Collate Results
4 th April	Findings to the Mission Council for Discussion
9 th May:	Review and Mission Council Recommendations
22 nd May:	Changes Finalised

Please continue to pray for this process, that it will be God honouring as we seek to discover His will for His Church in Staple Hill.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 4th June

Jubilee Festival in Page Park

(11am-5pm)

31st July – 5th August

Severn & Somerset Junior Camp

(Application forms available from Laura)

6th – 12th August

Severn & Somerset Summer Camp

(Application forms available from Tash)



Together 2022
Commissioning, Congress and Symphony Sounds

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 July 2022
International Convention Centre Birmingham

**Tickets available
from 4 April**

Friday 15 - Prayer event and International Staff Band and International Staff Songsters in concert

Saturday 16 - Sports Mission, Bible study, Family worship and fringe events

Sunday 17 - Commissioning of the Messengers of Reconciliation and celebration worship

For tickets and more details visit
<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/Events/Together22>

The poster features a blue background with a white outline of a group of people at the bottom, some with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer.



THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY 10th April: ***Palm Sunday***

- 10am All Age Worship - *at the hall and available online later*
'Taking the Light' - [Mark 11: 1-11](#)
- 11.30am -12:15pm Children & Youth Activities

Tuesday 12th April:

- 7pm Easter Musical Reflection
- Led by the Senior Band and Songsters

Thursday 14th April:

- 11.15am Easter Celebration (Easter songs and thoughts)
12.30pm Lunch Club
7pm Easter Faith Supper & Quiz (see sign-up sheet)

Friday 15th April:

- 10am Good Friday meeting
'Darkness (but Light is coming!)
- Followed by distribution of Hot Cross Buns in the Square

Sunday 17th April: ***Easter Sunday***

- 8:30am Easter Breakfast (see sign-up sheet)
10am Easter Sunday Celebration - *at the hall and available online later*
'Light Overcomes Darkness'
12.30pm Band Concert in Page Park (preceded by march)

Most Extra Slice groups are not meeting this week, but please check with your leader.