



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving



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The Centre of All Things

The preface to Genesis in my copy of The Message Bible says:

*“First, God. God is the subject of life. God is foundational for living. If we don’t have a sense of the primacy of God, we will never get it right, get life right, get **our** lives right. Not God at the margins; not God as an option; not God on the weekends. God at centre and circumference; God first and last; God, God, God.”*

As we all begin to come together again after the summer break, it is like the start of a new term (as indeed it is for many of our younger members) – so it is akin to a new beginning for our church. There are lots of exciting things to look forward to, new people to meet and befriend, new opportunities to engage with the community, new chances to spread the Good News. But it is easy to become so caught up with the things that we are doing that we forget exactly why we are doing them.

We are entering a very busy few months for the corps, but at the centre of it all there is God. We must remember that. Our focus, our purpose, our motivation. God, God, God.

Paul Heath

CLEANING:

Thanks to those who helped with cleaning the hall this week. Trying to be a bit more structured if anyone has the capacity to help on a regular basis, that would be good. I'm planning to be around most Friday's 2pm-4pm if anyone is free.

There is still some gardening to do, if anyone is able.

HARVEST:

The summer is nearly over and so our minds turn to harvest celebrations. We are looking forward to sharing together on the weekend of 24th/25th September with the following activities:

- Saturday 7pm Harvest Supper and quiz
(ploughman's and apple crumble
please sign up - donations welcome)
- Sunday 10am Harvest celebration all age worship
- Sunday 4-6pm Harvest Messy Church

We will be collecting non-perishable food to restock our food store and are looking for the following items only please (and with a long date!): rice, pasta, breakfast cereal, tea bags, coffee, biscuits, and tins of potatoes, vegetables, fish, ham, chicken, luncheon meat, meatballs, steak, tomatoes, baked beans, custard, fruit, rice pudding and Fray Bentos pies.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

We remember those who are returning to school over the coming days - pupils along with anyone involved in education. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

PEOPLE:

The funeral for Harry Dryden will be held tomorrow, Monday 5th September at 2pm at Weston Super Mare Salvation Army Hall, followed at 3.30pm for a 'private' committal at Weston Crem, then back to the hall for light refreshments . Please uphold Claire and the family in your prayers.

Rex is now home following a time in BRI, but Hayley is in hospital following a heart procedure. Whilst a number of our friends are poorly, we particular remember and pray for both Clive and Jill who have not had good news regarding treatment. We do try and support those of our fellowship who are poorly, so please let us know or remind us so we don't miss you.

BIG COLLECTION FLAG DAYS:

Sign up sheet now available

Morrisons in Fishponds have kindly made 2 dates available for us to fundraise for the Big Collection - Thursday 29th and Friday 30th September. If you are able to collect for an hour or 2 on these dates that would be great – there is a sign-up sheet on the notice board.

FLOWERS:

Our thanks to Mark Dickens for the flowers today. They are in celebration of Michelle's birthday.

PHONE DIRECTORY:

Have you moved or joined our church family these past months? If so, we are planning an update of the Corps Directory in the next few weeks.

Please send any changes by email to:

myriam.selfe@salvationarmy.org.uk or talk to Viv Wallington.

Remember, you need to be in it to have your copy of the directory!

MESSY CHURCH:

Thank you to those who came to the meeting on Tuesday (over 20!) we look forward to starting this new venture very soon. Messy church is a way of being church, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. It is not a children's event, but an opportunity for all ages to worship and learn more about God together. It's a church that helps people encounter Jesus as their Lord and Saviour in all kinds of creative ways. There are three dates planned - so please put them in your diary and think about how you can help and who you can bring along. We look forward to what God will do. Please speak to Laura or Nicola if you want more information.

Sundays 25th September; 30th October and 27th November 4pm - 6pm.

CHRISTMAS DATES:

We are busy working on the Christmas programme, please put these dates in your diary:

Saturday 26th November
Sunday 27th November

Yate Switch-on 1 – 5pm
Advent Worship 10am
Messy Church 4 – 6pm

Saturday 3rd December
Sunday 4th December

Christmas on the Hill
Toy Service 10am

Monday 5th December

Light Up a Life 5pm
Last Day for toy donations (Toy and Food parcel sorting 5th – 9th December)

Saturday 10th December
Sunday 11th December

Carolling 10 - 12
Advent Worship 10am
Carol Service 5pm

Friday 16th December
Saturday 17th December
Sunday 18th December

Band Christmas Concert 7.30pm
Carolling 10-12

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Family Carol Service 10am
Carols in the Square 5pm
All Age Worship 11am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 19th September	PCC Meeting (at 7pm)
24th – 25th September	Harvest Weekend
Sunday 25th September	Messy Church (4pm to 6pm)
Monday 26th September	Mission Council Meeting (at 8pm)
29th & 30th September	Flag Days at Morrisons (Fishponds) in aid of The Big Collection
Saturday 8th October	Coffee Morning (Hosted by Lynette Price & Pauline Perkins – 10am to 12 noon)
Sunday 16th October	YP Annual Celebration Meeting (at 10am)
Sunday 16th October	Divisional Welcome to Divisional Leaders in our hall (at 4pm)
Saturday 5th November	Coffee Morning (Hosted by Jo Risdale & Rachel Wallis – 10am to 12 noon)
Saturday 12th November	Kenya Trust Concert
Sunday 13th November	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 27th November	Messy Church (4pm to 6pm)

THE WEEKS AHEAD:

Sunday 4th September:

- 10am All Age Worship
'All the Difference in the World'
[1 Peter 1:1-2](#)
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities

Tuesday 6th September:

- 11am-12noon Extra Slice Group at the Hall (leader: Kelvin)
- 6:30pm YP Band Practice
- 7:15pm Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 5th September:

- 9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill (no booking required)
- 3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Gerry)
- 7:45pm-9pm Extra Slice Group at the Hall (leader: Linda)
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Beth)

Thursday 8th September:

- 12.30pm Lunch Club
- 7:45pm-9pm Extra Slice Group at Colin & Nicola's house
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leaders: Ian & Rachel)

Sunday 11th September:

- 10am All Age Worship
'Wherever we are'
[Genesis 28: 10-22](#)
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities
- 3pm Page Park Praise

Everything restarts this week – all midweek activities, Extra Slice Groups etc. Please note changes to Tots on the Hill and Linda's Extra Slice group.