

SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

A New Year

For those I've not seen yet – a Happy New Year to you all!

A new year brings many things with it – new hopes, new challenges, new fears, new joys. You will see that it has also brought a new look to the front page of the bulletin – I hope you like it - it will probably evolve a bit more over the coming weeks as I tweak the design.

None of us know what this year holds for us – but we do know that if we put our faith in God he will direct us along life's pathway (see [Proverbs 3 v 6](#)). One thing is for sure, we will not be the same people at the end of this year as we start this year – our experiences, our circumstances and our understanding of the world around us will change, as hopefully our relationship with God will also grow stronger.

Our church will be different too. We will see new people come into our buildings (and we were delighted to see a number of new faces last Sunday morning) for us to welcome, befriend and encourage, whilst at the same time saying a final goodbye to a few. But with God directing our paths, we know that this year can be a really great one!

Paul Heath

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CAROLLING 2022:

Grand total raised **£6222.24**

Thank you to all those who played, collected and counted

An eagle-eyed person may notice that this is different to the breakdown totals displayed on the board at the hall. That's because £4.28 was taken off at the bank due to euro coins!!

EXCITING NEW SERIES FOR THE NEW YEAR:

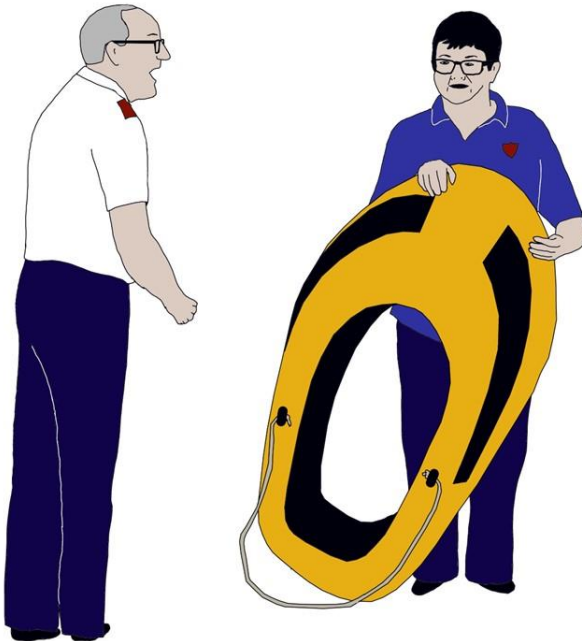
Next Sunday will be the start of our new series that will take us up to Easter. Simply entitled 'The Bible Series' it's a 7 part journey through the big story of the Bible and we'll discover that it's a story that makes sense of life. Whether you're quite new to reading the Bible – or you think you know a lot about it – together we will appreciate its main message and how it applies to our everyday lives on our frontlines. We'll follow through the series during our Sunday worship and our Extra Slice groups – so if you still haven't joined a group, maybe now is the time. For those who want to dig a bit deeper, there is also a book to accompany the series entitled 'The Bible - A Story That Makes Sense of Life' by Andrew Ollerton – it's easily available online so why not order yourself a copy?

AN ADVENT ADVENTURE:

We hope that you found our Advent readings, *An Advent Adventure*, of help throughout December. If you found it interesting and helpful and are not part of an Extra Slice Group, then why not consider joining one? There are groups meeting throughout the week in-person and on-line; in the day and in the evening; and on various days. It's a good opportunity to learn more out our faith and to share in fellowship (and if meeting in person, eat biscuits!). Over half our congregation find this to be a valuable part of their worship, so why not give it a go in 2023?! Speak to Linda or Nicola for more information.

PUTTING CHRISTMAS AWAY:

I'm sure you've all put away your Christmas decorations at home – it's good to have a tidy house again even if it is a little bare. On Thursday this week a team of people turned up to help 'put Christmas away' in our building. That included putting away three Christmas trees, sorting and packing all the late donations of toys and food, and putting everything away in the loft and shed. This was followed by a good clean of both the annexe and the main hall. Much was achieved in a short space of time – so thank you to everyone who helped. You may also be interested to know that our Christmas reception received a huge amount of donations throughout the Christmas period, including nearly £4,000 – so thank you to everyone who spent some time sitting in the foyer waiting for people to arrive!



I thought we could do things a little differently this year - you can do the clowning around and I'll be the serious one!

PEOPLE:

There are a number of people in our fellowship or attached to our fellowship who have been bereaved of loved ones in recent weeks. These include:

- Olive Sheppard - John's funeral is on Tuesday, 10th January, 12.30pm at Stephen's Church followed by the committal at Westerleigh at 2pm. Olive would like to add that:
 - Everyone is invited to come following the service to Pucklechurch Community Centre, Village Hall, Abson Road in the Social Club.
 - The first song at the Cremetorim will be sung by the International Staff Songsters!
- Derek who is preparing for the funeral of his mother on Wednesday, 11th January.
- Mildred & Farayi Gwenzi and family following the bereavement of their son, Caleb.
- Brian Usher, along with all the family, following the bereavement his brother.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends at this time.

At the time of writing, Joyce Lear is in Southmead following a fall over Christmas, but both Jill W and Roy are now home. However, there appear to be a number of bugs and viruses circulating, so please be careful.

We have 2 special birthdays to celebrate this week – Kay Willets on Thursday and Alan Tilling who is 90 on Friday. Happy Birthday to your both.

THANKS:

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped over the Christmas period. From those who helped technically, practically, musically, encouragingly and financially - we could not have achieved the level of spiritual outreach and practical help that we did without you. Thank you.

**THE
INTERNATIONAL
STAFF BAND**

IN CONCERT

Saturday 28th January 2023 @ 7pm

Admission £10

**Bristol Easton Salvation Army
Hassell drive, Bristol, BS2 0AN**

Sunday 29th Morning worship 10.30am

Afternoon concert 2.15pm



Use the QR code to order tickets from Eventbrite

Or call 07504217151



BEYOND THE WEEK AHEAD:

Sunday 22nd January	Messy Church (4pm – 6pm)
Saturday 11th February	Coffee Morning
24th – 26th February	Staple Hill Youth Retreat
Sunday 26th February	Messy Church
Saturday 4th March	Staple Hill Band Concert
Saturday 11th March	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12th March	YP Band & Singing Company at Stroud
24th – 26th March	Territorial YP Workers weekend 'Shalom'
Saturday 1st April	Coffee Morning
Sunday 2nd April	Messy Church
Sunday 9th April	Easter Sunday
30th Sept / 1st Oct	Harvest Weekend
14th / 15th October	YP Prizegiving Weekend

CALENDAR FOR 2023:

Copies of the calendar will be available to pick up at the hall today – if you receive the bulletin by email, look out for the attachment.

FLOWERS:

Many thanks to Marc Willetts today for the flowers on our altar table. They are in celebration of Kay's birthday this week.

THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY Sunday 8th January: COVENANT SUNDAY

- 10am All Age Worship
[John 10 v 10](#)
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities
- 4pm to 7:30pm Divisional Youth Rehearsals in our hall

Tuesday 10th January:

- 11am-12noon Extra Slice Group at the Hall (leader: Kelvin)
- 12noon-6pm Hall open for a *Warm Welcome*
- 6:30pm YP Band Practice
- 7:15pm Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Songster Practice

Wednesday 11th January:

- 9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill
- 3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Gerry)
- 7:45pm-9pm Extra Slice Group at Linda's house
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Beth)

Thursday 12th January:

- 12.30pm Lunch Club
- 6:45pm Extra Slice Group at Colin & Nicola's house
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leaders: Ian & Rachel)

Friday 13th January:

- 12noon-6pm Hall open for a *Warm Welcome*

Saturday 14th January:

10am-12noon Coffee Morning

Sunday 15th January:

- 10am All Age Worship
'A story that makes sense of life'
[2 Timothy 3 v 14-17](#) and [Luke 24 v 13-35](#)
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities