

SUNDAY 22nd JANUARY 2023



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Church Unity

We are very fortunate to worship within one of the larger Salvation Army corps within the South West of England. Amongst the many blessings that brings, it also means that we can arrange cover from within our own fellowship when Colin and Nicola are away. We are very lucky.

But that self-sufficiency brings with it a tendency for us to be isolated from the other churches in the area. One of the things that I struggled to come to terms with when we moved to the corps over a quarter of a century ago was the apparent lack of cooperation between the churches. We had moved from a corps where we occasionally joined together with the local Methodists, Church of England, URC or Baptist congregations in united worship, and their ministers were as familiar to us as our own Corps Officers. Though our traditions may be slightly different, our mission and faith is most definitely common - a unity of purpose that binds all churches together in Christ.

Today, we will be blessed by the ministry of Rev Dr Aboseh Ngwana from the Methodist Church. It is the first time that I can recall a non-Salvation Army minister coming to our church to preach, and I certainly hope it will not be the last. Do you remember what was written on the front of the cards given out on Covenant Sunday? Celebrating life ***together***.

Paul Heath

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

18th – 25th January

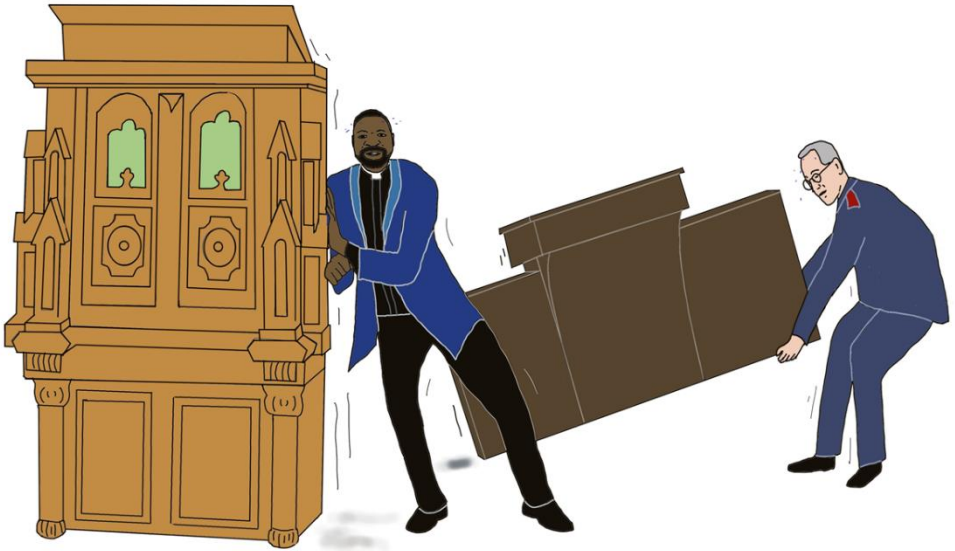
Every year at this time, the worldwide Christian community focuses on prayer for Christian Unity. It's an opportunity for us to remember that we are part of something much bigger and we are all united in our love for God. As part of this initiative, the churches in BS16 are holding a pulpit exchange, which means that ministers will swap this Sunday and preach in different churches. Colin is preaching in St James, Mangotsfield and we're looking forward to welcoming Revd Dr Aboseh Ngwana from Staple Hill Methodist Church, here's a little information from him:

I am an ecumenical partner of the Methodist Church in Britain from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon. After my postgraduate studies in the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, the Methodist Church received me as a Recognised and Regarded Minister in Full Connexion in 2019 and stationed me in Bristol where I have pastoral charge over three churches - Staple Hill, Wesley Memorial, and Hanham. I have been in full-time ministry for close to 30 years (including four years of ministerial formation), ably supported by my wife (Mojoko) and four children (Miriam, Aloys-West, Eyole, and Kuku). For me, my family is my first parish. Additionally, I am a volunteer Minister of the Cameroonian Fellowship, made up of Christians from the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon who are resident in the UK. I am also passionate about ecology and justice. I support SUHUCAM, a charity that is active in restoring landscapes by planting trees and educating the indigenous communities on the dangers of unsustainable farming practices.

Thank you, Aboseh. As we share in worship today, we will be focussing our prayer on Christian Unity and particularly praying for our neighbours, Staple Hill Methodist Church, here's some pointers for our prayer:

- for the Church to develop a regular and intentional rhythm of evangelism

- to receive and implement the results of its mission audit
- for more volunteers for its various ministries, especially its eco-church agenda
- for Cameroon that justice may flow like a stream and righteousness like an ever flowing river ([Amos 5.24](#))



Today's pulpit exchange!

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

We'd like to put together a list of books/apps/websites/podcasts that people use to help them with their Bible reading. So, if you have used, or are using, something that you're finding really helpful please let either Nicola or Linda know. Thank you.

THE CHOSEN – SEASON 3 FINALE:

Friday 3rd February 7pm at Vue Cinema (to be confirmed)

"Season 3 of The Chosen comes to a stunning conclusion in this made-for-the-big-screen event with bonus content. In episodes 7 & 8, Simon and Eden face a marital crisis, Matthew's faith takes a turn, and the thousands of people following Jesus grow restless ... until a boy brings some loaves and fishes."

Tickets are yet to be released and details confirmed, but I (Myriam) am looking to see if there is an appetite to organise another group viewing to the cinema. If you are interested – please put your name down on the list in the foyer.

So far, the show has had over 470 million views but if you have yet to discover *The Chosen*, you can borrow DVDs from the office for seasons 1 and 2, or you can binge-watch all three seasons on your mobile device by downloading *The Chosen* or *Angel Studios* mobile apps (IOS and Android), or watch it online at <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen> free of charge.

PEOPLE:

You'll be pleased to learn that Joyce has returned home after her stay in Southmead and that Joan has moved to a new home (please ask Steve or Myriam for the details).

At the time of writing, we have heard that Arthur Fortt-Brewer has had a nasty encounter with a sofa and has a suspected fracture, so our prayers are with him, Hannah and Nick.

There are a number of people with coughs and sore throats or generally feeling unwell. Please take care of yourselves during this 'cold snap'.

There is a special birthday on Saturday this week – as Gary Risdale reaches his half-century. Many congratulations from us all.

恭喜發財 – HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR:

Today marks the first day of the Chinese New Year. We would like to wish our Cantonese brothers and sisters 'gong hei fat choy' [meaning: wishing you happiness and prosperity] as they celebrate this weekend the start of the year of the Rabbit.

HONG KONG BANQUET: Saturday 4th February 2023 at 7pm

We are pleased that Michael, Charlotte, Grace and friends have kindly agreed to host a social evening on Saturday, 4th February 2023 at 7pm. This will be both an exciting and enjoyable time of fellowship and food. The cost is £5.00 per adult (family price £12). If you would like to come, please complete the 'sign-up' form on the notice board to avoid disappointment.

HONG KONG MASTER CLASS: Saturday 4th February 2023 at 2pm

Interested in learning some new culinary skills? There are limited places (8-10) for this unique experience. To register your interest, please email Colin. Please be aware that there will be a charge - we will advise once we have more details.

Both these events, in addition to encouraging fellowship, hope to raise funds, so please support financially if you are able.

FLOWERS:

We are extremely thankful to Viv for organising the weekly flower rota and for providing the flowers whenever there is a gap, as there is today.

If you would like to provide the flowers at the front of the hall – perhaps in celebration of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, or just for the joy that they will bring to our worship – please add your name to the list on the notice board in the entrance hall.

BEYOND THE WEEK AHEAD:

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| Saturday 11th February | Coffee Morning |
| 24th – 26th February | Staple Hill Youth Retreat |
| Sunday 26th February | Messy Church |
| Friday 3rd March | Women's World Day of Prayer |
| Saturday 4th March | Staple Hill Band Concert |
| Sunday 5th March | Self Denial Altar Service |
| 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 inc. Concert in Page Park |
| Sunday 7th May | Page Park Coronation Event |
| Sunday 14th May | Page Park Praise |
| Sunday 4th June | Page Park Praise |
| Saturday 17th June | Armed Forces Day in Page Park |
| Sunday 2nd July | Page Park Praise |
| Sunday 6th August | Page Park Praise |
| Sunday 17th September | Page Park Praise |
| 30th Sept / 1st Oct | Harvest Weekend |
| 14th / 15th October | YP Prizegiving Weekend |

THE WEEK AHEAD:

TODAY Sunday 22nd January:

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| 10am | All Age Worship Week of Christian Unity: Pulpit Exchange: visit of Rev Dr Aboseh Ngwana 1 Corinthians 3 v 5-23 |
| 11.30am-12:15pm | Children & Youth Activities |
| 4pm-6pm | Messy Church |

Monday 23rd January:

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| 7pm | Pastoral Care Council Meeting |
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Tuesday 24th January:

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

Wednesday 25th January:

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| 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 26th January:

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| 12.30pm | Lunch Club |
| 6:45pm | Colin & Nicola's Extra Slice Group <i>at the hall</i> |
| 7:30pm | Open Band Practice |
| 8:15pm-9:15pm | Extra Slice Group online (leaders: Ian & Rachel) |

Friday 27th January:

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| 12noon-6pm | Hall open for a <i>Warm Welcome</i> |
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Sunday 29th January:

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| 10am | All Age Worship Origins: Our human desire for meaning Genesis 1v26 to 2v8 & 3v1-7 |
| 11.30am-12:15pm | Children & Youth Activities |