SUNDAY 30th April 2023





Local ... Lively ... Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Be Alert

Last Sunday, we were all waiting expectantly for the new Emergency Alert test to reach our mobile phones. Did you receive it? It seemed to be a little hit and miss – I received the alert on my phone, but Tracey didn't even though she was sat next to me and her phone is on the same network. She was very disappointed!

I couldn't help draw parallels in my mind with the parable of the 10 young women waiting to greet a bridegroom. 5 were prepared for a long wait and ensured their lamps had enough oil, whilst the other 5 missed the bridegroom's arrival because their lamp oil had run out. The 5 foolish girls were bitterly disappointed at missing out on the wedding feast.

We don't know when the alert system on our phones might be needed, so we will want to make sure that our phones are up to the job, just in case. Are we equally ready and alert for when Jesus calls?

Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

Matthew 25 v 13 (Amplified Bible)

Paul Heath

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Prayer Fellowship: staplehillprayers@gmail.com

PAGE PARK CORONATION BIG LUNCH:

The Friends of Page Park are organising a Big Lunch on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. This is a great opportunity to share fellowship.

We'd like to invite you to take a picnic and join in with the rest of the community! We will be making our way to the park as soon as our Sunday activities are over.

THANKS:

Mike Dickens would like to say thank you for all the cards and gifts following his knee surgery. He believes he is nicely recovered now. It cheered him up during a rather painful time!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Mary Dunk who has recently completed her Level 2 Food Safety Certificate



Mike gives thanks for a successful operation, but we're keeping the team on standby just in case he can't get up

THE CORONATION ON THE BIG SCREEN:

Saturday 6th May 2023 9:30am - 2:30pm

We will be showing the Coronation on the Big Screen in the Bradbury Hall if you would like to join us. During the morning we'll provide refreshments and at lunch time, we'll pop to the 'chippy' to get some lunch. Come dressed up or as you are to celebrate together.

CANDIDATES SUNDAY:

Each year, we financially support those who are entering leadership training to become officers for The Salvation Army. A collection will be made both before and after today's service.

There are various ways that you can give to the Candidates fund:

- Cash donations in the 'Candidate' basket at the back of the hall, before and after the service
- By credit/debit card (Corps Treasurer will have the card reader at the back of the hall)
- Or BACS using the below details:

Account Name: The Salvation Army

Sort Code: 60-01-73 **Account No:** 00130997 **Ref:** CAND

It would be most helpful if you can give your donation before having coffee/tea at the end of the meeting!

FLOWERS:

The flowers today are from Julie Warren to say thank you for the friendships and fellowship she has enjoyed since first coming to the corps in 2005. She has been blessed in many ways and she said she will miss Staple Hill. During her time at the corps, she has helped with the Baby Song and Mother & Toddler groups, and she was also part of the Tuesday morning Extra Slice group.

As she moves to Devon in the coming days, she is hoping to link up with a corps near to where she will be living. We will miss Julie, but know that God will bless and use her in the future days.

WELCOME TO THE HIGH COUNCIL:

You are invited to join the international Salvation Army world to welcome the High Council (the group that elects the next General of The Salvation Army) and say farewell to General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle as they enter retirement. This will take place on Saturday 20th May at Central Hall Westminster, London. Details of the event, including how to book your free tickets and access the livestream, can be found on the following page.

www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/highcouncil-2023-welcome





PEOPLE:

We are currently preparing for 2 funerals, the details of which are:

• Jill Welling:

Friday 5th May. There will be a service of celebration at the hall at 1.15pm, followed by the committal at Westerleigh at 2.30pm, after which we will return to the hall for refreshments. Please continue to pray for Jill's son, Steve, and their family at this sad time.

Leon Jenner

We were sad to learn that Leon Jenner was promoted to glory this week. We have been asked to conduct Leon's funeral, the details of which are: Thursday, 25th May 2023 at 2pm at Westerleigh Crematorium. Please remember his daughter, Davina, along with his brothers Russell and Barry in your prayers.

We have heard that John Wordley has had a fall this week, through which he broke his hip. At the time of writing he is waiting for surgery at Exeter hospital. Sheila, Brenda Cook's sister, is in hospital following a stroke. I was able to pop in and see Roy this week, and he continues to be very poorly. Louise's nan is far from well. Margaret is continuing to recover from her knee operation. There are still people who are poorly with various infections and illnesses. If I have not mentioned you, I am sorry, but please take care.

STATISTICS GATHERING:

We are continuing to gather statistics until Friday 5^{th} May, so please give your numbers to Deb, thank you.

SOMEBODY PRAYED FOR ME:

The Prayer Fellowship is one of the most important groups within our Corps. We all know that prayer really does make a difference. We may feel powerless to do anything meaningful in many situations – e.g. to restore a person to health, in comforting a grieving family, bringing peace to a place ravaged by war, or supporting someone going



through a particularly difficult time. But we know that God can and will intervene – if only we ask Him.

The Prayer Fellowship works through e-mails. A request for prayer support is received – sometimes we might know something of the situation behind the request, at other times it may be for someone known only to God. As those in the Prayer Fellowship check their e-mails through the day, we undertake to pray about the situation just where we are. We don't meet together at any time, we just add the prayer requests to our own personal devotions. Within no time at all, prayers are being said all over the place and a real difference is made.

And that is it! There are members of the Prayer Fellowship located all around the UK, and some in other countries. God hears the prayers that we raise, and responds. I [Paul] know from personal experience how much comfort, strength and healing can be brought about when 'somebody prays for me'. And when that 'somebody' turns in to 10's or even 100's of people – the effect is astonishing. It really does work!

If you would like to know more about joining the Prayer Fellowship, or would like us to pray for something – please have a chat to Rita Brooksbank or drop an email to the address shown on the front page of this bulletin.

MESSY CHURCH 21st MAY:

We had cancelled this Messy Church due to a Divisional event, but this has now been postponed so we will have our next Messy Church on Sunday 21st May 4pm – 6pm.

IN THE MONTH AHEAD:

Sunday 7th May Page Park Coronation Big Lunch

Saturday 13th May Coffee Morning

Sunday 14th **May** Page Park Praise

Sunday 21st May Messy Church

Sunday 22nd May Mission Council Meeting

SOME MORE KEY DATES THIS YEAR:

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 30th April: Candidates Sunday

10am All Age Worship

11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities 12noon Church 2 U – In Whitchurch

4pm-6pm Messy Church

Note: There will be a collection before and after the service today to help fund those training to be Salvation Army officers

Tuesday 2nd May:

11am-12noon Extra Slice Group at the Hall (leader: Kelvin)

6:30pm YP Band Practice

NO Singing Company Practice

8pm Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 3rd May:

9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill

3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Gerry)

7:45pm-9pm Linda's Extra Slice Group at hall (this week only)

8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Beth)

Thursday 4th May:

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 5th May:

1:15pm Funeral of Jill Welling

followed by service at Westerleigh at 2:30pm

Saturday 6th May:

9:30am-2:30pm Coronation on the big screen

Sunday 7th May:

10am All Age Worship

11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities 11:30am-12:30pm Kay's Sunday Group

Following the meeting: 'Big Lunch' at Page Park – Bring a picnic and a chair and join with everyone celebrating the Coronation