

SUNDAY 12th November 2023



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Today's Frontline

The images on television over the past few weeks have brought home to us all the reality of war. We have been witnesses to the impact war has on civilians – homes reduced to rubble, rising body counts, children covered in blood, people mourning. For those actually on the frontlines of war, the scenes will be far worse. The scars left behind can never truly heal.

We remember today the lives of those who have died in service of their country. The fallen, but not forgotten.



We can bring little that will give comfort or healing to those affected. We have no influence to bring any conflict to an end. We cannot know how it feels. But by our presence, by our empathy, by our participation in this day of remembrance – we join in a display of peace and solidarity. As we remember, we understand and do not forget.

Just for today, *our* frontline is also the frontline of every conflict that has ever been, and ever will be. Our frontline is our neighbour, our friend, our community ..., our world.

Paul Heath

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Great News – We’re Moving Back In!

The work on our building is progressing well and so we can now start making plans for the next few weeks:

Friday 1st December

The building will be handed back to us – everything will be complete except topside of gallery, partition doors and Audio-Visual fittings.

Saturday 2nd December

CHRISTMAS ON THE HILL – outside on Broad Street from 10am to 4pm we will have bands, collectors, goody bags and hot drinks. Whilst this is happening it will be ‘all hands on deck’ inside to put most of the building back together and ready for the next day...

Sunday 3rd December

10AM TOY SERVICE – Our first opportunity to worship together in the new space.

5PM LIGHT UP A LIFE – our annual carol service in partnership with St Peter’s Hospice

From Monday 4th December

All our groups and activities will move back to our own building - the builders will continue and hopefully complete the gallery by Christmas. We will still have access to the whole building, so everything that normally happens at Christmas will take place, including:

- FAMILY CAROL SERVICE Sunday 10th 10am
- TOY APPEAL – Sunday 10th – Thursday 14th
- CAROL SERVICE Sunday 17th 5pm
- CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATIONS

We will also be sharing in worship every Sunday morning at 10am as usual – but back at ‘home’!

Next week a complete Christmas programme will be available, including all the activities that are planned for the inside of our building as well as the carolling activities outside of our building so you’ll know what’s on when.

Christmas is always a busy time – this year it will just be a little more busy as we settle back in, there will be lots of jobs to do so please help if you are able to – many hands make light work.

Thank you for your continued support – particularly to those who have helped store and set up equipment in all the various venues we have been using. God has continued to bless us during this time and we look forward to the future he has planned for us.

If you have any questions please speak to Colin & Nicola – and look out for photos over the next few weeks as work progresses.

Christmas Day

We’re all set to welcome people on Christmas Day again this year. The day is for anyone who would appreciate sharing Christmas dinner around the table with others in the community. The day includes a Christmas dinner, entertainment, lots of laughs and all sorts of goodies to take home. If you want to share with us or know of anyone who would like an invitation, then please ask Nicola or Deb.

We are also looking for people to help us on the day. We need people to help all day as Table Hosts - making people welcome, serving food and chatting with guests and helping in the kitchen. We’re also looking for people to pick up guests to arrive by 10.30am and people to take them home again at 3pm. Please see Nicola if you can help in any way. Thank you!

People

We continue to remember those in our fellowship who are grieving a loss of a loved one. In particular, we remember Beryl and her family as they prepare to say goodbye to her brother on Wednesday.

As of writing Tom Cable is in hospital and Elsie is progressing well in Thornbury. There are a number of people who are poorly, so please continue to remember each other in prayer.

This week Geoff is celebrating his 70th birthday (Tuesday) and Noah was 13 yesterday (Saturday).

Flowers

Kay and Marc have provided the flowers for the front of the hall today. Thankyou.

Be a Star Christmas Appeal

It's that time of the year again. Last year we supported about 2,000 people across South Gloucestershire and Bristol. But we can only do that with your help. This year we're asking you to 'Be a Star', pick up a postcard (instead of an angel tag) and buy a gift for the person as indicated on the back. Gifts can be anything you choose. All gifts need to be brand new and unwrapped, please.



Sunday morning 3rd December, will be our Toy Service when you can bring your gifts and place them under our tree or you can bring them to the hall at any other time before Monday 11th December (once we are finally back in the hall, of course). On behalf of the families we represent, thank you so much for your generosity - if you need any further information please don't hesitate to ask.

Reception rota

During the Christmas period, many people want to donate to our Christmas Appeal so from Monday 27th November until Friday 22nd December our 'Christmas Reception' will be open from 9am to 12noon each day. If you are able to help, please put your name on the rota (speak to Nicola). The receptionists are there to welcome anyone who comes into our building, accepting and recording donations (toys, food and money) and answering any questions people may have (full training will be given!) There are always lots of other jobs to do if it's quiet too! We always need 2 people 'on duty' – so grab a friend and sign up. If you want to know more, please ask Nicola. (Please note that especially the first week it may be very cold so come prepared for that!

2024 calendar

Copies of the 2024 calendar are available, so please pick one up – it is also attached to the bulletin email. Make sure you have the date for our special 'Celebration weekend' in your diaries – 9th to 11th February.



Upcoming Events



**YOUTH SECTION
RELOADED**

TIMES
 15:00-15:30 - Welcome
 15:30-16:30 - Chorus
 16:30 - 17:30 - Small Groups
 17:30 - 18:30 - Youth Band
 18:30 - 18:40 - Reflection

12/11/2023- Youth Section
(Bristol Citadel)

The poster features a dark blue background with colorful circles and a line-art illustration of a diverse group of young people playing various instruments like guitars, drums, and keyboards.



Enjoy the music of the Staple Hill Band
of The Salvation Army

**Christmas
with the
Salvation Army**

Friday 1 December 7.30pm

St Michael's Centre
The Green
Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PD

Tickets £5

stmichaelsbristol.org/salvationarmyband

The poster has a festive red background with green pine branches and white lights at the top and bottom. It includes two circular images: one showing a band performing on stage and another showing a group of people in a hall. A QR code is provided for ticket purchase.

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 26 th November	4-6pm Christmas Messy Church
Friday 1 st December	Move back into our own hall! 7:30pm Christmas with the Salvation Army at Stoke Gifford (see advert)
Saturday 2 nd December	Christmas on the Hill
Sunday 3 rd December	Light up a Life with St Peter's Hospice
Sunday 10 th December	10am Family Carol Service
Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th December	Toy and Food Hamper sorting (all day)
Sunday 17 th December	5pm Main Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th February 2024	Celebration Weekend

The Week Ahead

TODAY Sunday 12th November: Remembrance Sunday

- 9:20am Time of Prayer *at Page Hall*
10am All Age Worship *at Page Hall*
10am Parade to form up on Page Road to leave at 10:20am
3pm Youth Section at Bristol Citadel – see advert
Due to Remembrance Day activities, there will be no Children's & Youth Activities during the morning on this day

Tuesday 14th November:

- 10am Keep Fit Class *at Downend Baptist Church*
11am-12noon Extra Slice Group *at Downend Baptist Church*
- (leader: Kelvin) – *10:30am for coffee*
6:30pm YP Band Practice *at Kingswood Salvation Army*
7:15pm Singing Co Practice *at Kingswood Salvation Army*
8pm Senior Band Practice *at Kingswood Salvation Army*

Wednesday 15th November:

- 9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill *at Staple Hill Methodist Church*
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 16th November:

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

Sunday 19th November:

- 9:20am Time of Prayer *at Page Hall*
10am All Age Worship *at Page Hall*
Fruitfulness on the Frontline:
Messenger of the Gospel ([1 Peter 3:15-16](#))
11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities *at Page Hall*

