

SUNDAY 26th November 2023



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

How Attractive Are You?

I am always grateful when people send me items to include within the weekly bulletin. One of our most frequent contributors is Doris Pearce, and I would like to express my thanks for all the helpful thoughts she shares with us. In the piece on the front page last week, she used a phrase which has been playing on my mind ever since:

“May God help us to reflect and reveal His message in attractive ways daily.”

It is the word ‘*attractive*’ that stood out. It is not enough for us to merely share the gospel on our frontlines in the way that we may be comfortable with – but we need to make the Good News *attractive* to others in the modern era. That may take us further out of our comfort zone, so we must pray for God’s help with that. To grow and adapt the way we present the Christian message is something that I think our corps has done extremely well over the years (e.g. see the article later re our online ministry), but we must never be complacent. So, I would like to add to Doris’ article from last week a prayer:

Lord – help us to have the courage to present your message in attractive ways during this coming advent season.

Paul Heath

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Our Last Sunday in Page Hall – Update on the Property Project

It has been a long wait, but finally we're moving back into our building and it will be exciting to be 'home' but also to have much better facilities. Here's what you need to know:

- The building is looking really good – new paint, flooring, lights, doors, toilets, radiators etc. make it look fresh and welcoming
- Our two main aims of the project have been realised:
 - More flexibility
 - Main Hall – portable platform, along with flexible AV screens, lights and glass partitions, means the set up can be made suitable for any purpose
 - Easier access to upper rooms - making them much more useable
 - During the week – An extra room or larger foyer has been created to enable a much more appropriate space for community work (including a coffee machine worth £3,500 which we were given for free!)
 - More seating capacity
 - The addition of the gallery with 60 seats
- Unfortunately, the project is not quite complete – the following will be completed by January:
 - Above the gallery – so we will have less capacity over December
 - 2 sets of sliding glass doors – that creates the new room and larger foyer
 - AV & tech screens etc. – we will continue to use the equipment used in Page Hall – which may mean you don't have an easy view.
 - Finishing touches – signs, noticeboards, crest, window blinds, extra furniture, etc.
- Safety restrictions – there are small elements that may seem strange – but are necessary due to building regulations and will keep us all safe

- 'You can't please all of the people all of the time'! Those that have made decisions have done their best, consulted widely and worked incredibly hard – please encourage them!
- We are really grateful to The Harry Crook Foundation which made this work possible, funding a project that will benefit the community of Staple Hill, and we look forward to what the future holds!

Finally – please think about how you can fundraise to provide the last bit of funding needed – thank you!

Our Online Ministry

We occasionally make reference to the reach of our online ministry during our weekly services, but few people would appreciate quite how significant has become. We are thankful to our fabulous Tech Team for enabling this for us a new, truly global frontline for our corps!

During the month of November (so far):

- Our online services have been viewed by 836 unique devices
- They have been viewed in 13 countries including Iran, India and..... Hong Kong
- We have appeared on the YouTube home screen 11,837 times
- People spent 131 hours watching Colin and Nicolas sermons (segment measurement) - just imagine THAT meeting!
- Even though we mention people in other countries (e.g. Australia), since the start of November the UK is the dominant country with a huge 51.7% of the audience.
- Our "Be A Star" Christmas Appeal website page has so far received 929 visits

Maybe it's time to consider praying for the Staple Hill OEP's - Online Engaged People!

Casual Uniform

If anyone would like to order any items of casual uniform please speak to Deb today as there is an order going in tomorrow (Monday) morning.

Help Needed please!

Christmas is always a busy time, but this year it is doubled with moving back in! Copies of the Christmas programme are available, but we thought it would be helpful to outline all those times help is needed:

Moving out of Page Hall	After today's meeting	Cars needed to move equipment to store until next week	See Colin
Reception	Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm	Welcoming people who bring donations and want to ask questions	See Reception Rota
Carolling	Various times	Players & collectors	See band or collectors rotas
Christmas on the Hill	Saturday 2 nd December 10am – 4.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collectors 2. Distributing hot drinks and chat – outside 3. Cleaning and moving stuff back - inside 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collectors rota 2. See Colin 3. Just turn up and see Nicola
Clearing main hall ready for builder to return	Sundays 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th After meeting	The main hall will need to be cleared and equipment covered as work will be taking place on gallery all week	Just stay after the meeting and help!
Cleaning building and setting up for Sunday	Friday 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd 4pm – 6pm	In the absence of a cleaner we will need to clean the building and set up the main hall for Sunday	See Friday Rotas

Toy Appeal – moving toys	Sunday 10 th (After Family Carol Service)	All toys need to be moved to Bradbury hall ready for sorting	Just stay after the meeting and help!
Toy Appeal – sorting toys	Sunday 10 th 1pm – 4pm	Unlike previous years a weekend opportunity for those who can't help during the week	Just turn up and help!
Toy Appeal – sorting toys & making up sacks	Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Sorting toys and making up the sacks of gifts that will be given to a family	See Nicola
Preparing for Christmas Day	Christmas Eve After morning meeting	Laying tables and preparing vegetables for Christmas Day	See Mary White
Christmas day	Christmas day 10.30am – 3.30pm	Volunteers to host guests, wash-up etc Drivers to pick-up guests 10am & drop home 3.15pm	See Nicola
New Year Blitz	Tuesday 2 nd – Friday 5 th January	Christmas 'stuff' put away Continue to 'get the building right'	More details later

This list is not exhaustive (believe it or not!) and you may have been asked to help with other things too – thank you. We have a great team who help out every year at this time – but with the extra work we can't do everything – so if you don't normally help at Christmas please consider doing so this year as the team can't do double the amount of work. Thank you!

Next Sunday & Christmas Jumpers

Next Sunday morning is our annual toy service at 10am – so please bring any new gifts you have ready for us to distribute – there is no need to wrap them in Christmas paper. There are still ‘Be a Star’ cards left – so please take one if you want to. We also invite you to wear a Christmas jumper on this morning – only if you want to – it doesn’t have to be a Christmas jumper, any jumper will do!

Flowers

We have two flower arrangements in the hall today – one from Gerry Wiltshire in memory of Malcolm, and the other from Yvonne Willetts in memory of Ken’s birthday. Thank you.

People

As of writing Tom is still in Southmead, Francis has been moved to South Bristol Community Hospital (Hengrove), Bev (from Canberra) had her hip replaced and Elsie has returned to the Grace Care Centre in Thornbury to continue her recovery. Our thought and prayers are with all our friends, along with those who are living with long-term health problems. Please continue to support each other, especially during these colder months.



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

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 3 rd December	Light up a Life with St Peter's Hospice
Saturday 9 th December	10am–2pm Christmas Carolling at Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Tesco's – <i>collectors required</i>
Sunday 10 th December	10am Family Carol Service
Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th December	Toy and Food Hamper sorting (all day)
Saturday 16 th December	10am–2pm Christmas Carolling at Sainsbury's and Tesco's – <i>collectors required</i>
Sunday 17 th December	5pm Main Carol Service
Saturday 23 rd December	10am–2pm Christmas Carolling at Sainsbury's and Tesco's – <i>collectors required</i>
Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th February 2024	Celebration Weekend

The Week Ahead

TODAY Sunday 26th November:

- 9:20am Time of Prayer *at Page Hall*
10am All Age Worship *at Page Hall*
Fruitfulness on the Frontline:
The journey On ([2 Kings 6: 15-17](#))
11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities *at Page Hall*
11:45am Church 2 U – Longwell Green
4pm – 6pm Messy Church Club *at Staple Hill Methodist Church*



Monday 27th November:

- 8pm CAMEO craft group *at Staple Hill Methodist Church*

The Week Ahead [Continued]

Tuesday 28th November:

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

Wednesday 29th November:

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| 9:30am-11am | Tots on the Hill <i>at Staple Hill Methodist Church</i> |
| 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 30th November:

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

Friday 1st December:

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| 7:30pm | Christmas with the Salvation Army <i>at St Michael's Centre, Stoke Gifford – see advert</i> |
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Saturday 2nd December:

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| From 10am | Christmas on the Hill – <i>Collectors Required</i> |
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Sunday 3rd December: *Back in our own hall*

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| 9:20am | Time of Prayer |
| 10am | All Age Worship – <i>Toy Service</i>
<i>(Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers!)</i> |
| | Advent Peace: Stop, Be Still (Psalm 46) |
| 11.30am-12:15pm | Children & Youth Activities |
| 11:45am | Carols on the Frontline |
| 5pm | <i>Light up a Life</i> with St Peter's Hospice |

From Monday 27th November – our Christmas Reception will be open from 9am-12noon every week day