

SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

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**Staple  
Hill  
Bulletin**



**Local ...  
Lively ...  
Loving**

[staplehillbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:staplehillbulletin@gmail.com)

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## Moving Back

At long last, we are back! Our anticipation and excitement has been growing over the past few weeks as we have prepared for our first meeting in our 'new' hall, and finally, that day has arrived.



● Some of those who attended the opening pictured in the New Hall.

But we have, of course, quite literally been here before. Our current hall opened for the first time back in the 1960's (see above for a photo of that very first meeting). Now, just as then, the building will present us with a few challenges as we settle in, but also provides tremendous opportunities for the future. Back in the 60's those opportunities were taken which resulted in the Salvation Army in Staple Hill having the firm foundation that underpins all that we do today.

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We are now sitting at another cross-roads in the future of the Corps. We have a wonderful building, filled with wonderful and dedicated people, guided by the wonderful Holy Spirit. Let's make and take all the opportunities that are before us so that in another 60 years the people in our corps can look back and give thanks for the foundations that we have laid.

*Paul Heath*

*Ed. Apologies for the quality of the photo in the printed version of this document – get someone to show you the online version of the bulletin if it doesn't come out clear enough. And if you want to know who all those people are .... Pauline says she can name most if not all the faces!*

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## 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:

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
Clearing main hall ready for builder to return	Sundays 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> 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	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup>	In the absence of a cleaner we will	See Friday Rotas

setting up for Sunday	4pm – 6pm	need to clean the building and set up the main hall for Sunday	
Toy Appeal – moving toys	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> (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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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. Thank you!

## **Christmas Cards**

The Christmas Post box is available today and next week (10<sup>th</sup>) only, so make sure you post your cards and label them with the full name please. There is also the option to add a message to the corps online card.

## **Toy & Gift Sorting**

This year we begin to sort the toys and gifts next Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> between 1pm & 4pm. In previous years, a number of people have been disappointed because they can't help during the week – so here's your opportunity. Sunday will be just sorting the gifts into rough age groups – so join in if you are able to – just turn up! Thank you.

## **Messy Church**

We had a great Messy Church last Sunday – our last one for 2023. We look forward to what next year will bring, especially as we will be able to meet in our own building. Please put these dates in your diary now!

- 21<sup>st</sup> January
- 25<sup>th</sup> February
- 24<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday)
- 21<sup>st</sup> April
- 12<sup>th</sup> May
- 9<sup>th</sup> June
- 7<sup>th</sup> July
- 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- 20<sup>th</sup> October
- November/December date to be confirmed

## Thanks

Olive Matthews would like to thank the band members for their ministry last Sunday when they paid a visit to the street. It was really enjoyed by the family and residents.

*[Ed. It was our pleasure to come to you!]*

## Flowers

Thank you to those people who have placed flowers on the holiness table throughout this year. It enhances our worship and helps to remind us of loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions.

The new flower list is now available and will be up on the notice board ready for 2024 if you would like to place flowers for Sunday worship, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. It does not need to be for a special occasion. Please add your details to the date required or speak to Viv Wallington. Thank you.

We are thankful to Lilian Baker for the Advent Wreath at the front of our hall during this Christmas period, in memory of her mother.

## People

As we enter this Advent period, we continue to remember those in our fellowship who are poorly, living with long term health conditions, or grieving the loss of a loved one. Please pray and uphold our friends in your prayers and if you can, send a message. Thank you.

## Dates for the Diary

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

## The Week Ahead

Christmas Reception will be open from 9am-12noon every week day

### TODAY Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:

- 9:20am Time of Prayer
- 10am All Age Worship – *Toy Service*  
*(Feel free to wear your Christmas jumpers!)*  
Advent Peace: Stop, Be Still ([Psalm 46](#))
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities
- 11:45am Carols on the Frontline
- 5pm *Light up a Life* with St Peter's Hospice  
- *No booking required, get there early!*

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December:

- 11am Carols on the Frontline - *at Page Park Bowling Club*

# The Week Ahead [Continued]

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:

10am	Keep Fit Class
6:45pm	Carols on the Frontline – <i>Chocolate Quarter, Keynsham</i>
7:30pm	Songsters - <i>Badminton Gardens</i>

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

9:30am-11am	Tots on the Hill <i>at Staple Hill Methodist Church</i>
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## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December:

12.30pm	Lunch Club
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## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

4pm – 6pm	Cleaning and preparing hall for Sunday - <i>Please add your name to rota</i>
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## Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December:

10am-12noon	Carolling - <i>at Sainsbury's, Morrisons &amp; Tesco's</i> - <i>Collectors Required</i>
12noon-2pm	Carolling - <i>at Tesco's, Yate</i> - <i>Collectors Required</i>

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December: *Last posting day for Christmas cards*

9:20am	Time of Prayer
10am	Family Carol Service
11.30am-12:15pm	Children & Youth Activities
11:45am	Carols on the Frontline
1pm-4pm	Toy sorting – <i>please help if you can, just turn up!</i>

*All activities take place in our own building this week, except Tots on the Hill which will still be meeting in Staple Hill Methodist Church.*

***Extra Slice Groups*** – *Please check with your leader about meeting up during December*

