

SUNDAY 10th December 2023

**Staple
Hill
Bulletin**

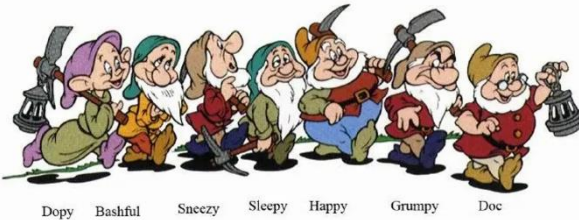


**Local ...
Lively ...
Loving**

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The 7 Dwarfs

The panto season is now underway, and although there doesn't seem to be a production of Snow White in the local area – my thoughts this week have turned to the 7 dwarfs (inspired really by the scene modelled outside of Santa's grotto in Yate this year – even though I don't think they are meant to represent the dwarfs in any way).



Dopey Bashful Sneezzy Sleepy Happy Grumpy Doc

It struck me that at times over this Christmas period, we will all take on the character of at least a few of these dwarfs (as named in the old Disney classic). A few of us will already be full of sniffles

just like Sneezzy, or we may be busy arranging everyone and everything like Doc. Perhaps we will become lost for words like Bashful as we open that special gift from a loved one. The likelihood is that we will be so busy that we may even get a bit confused with what we need to do next and make a few mistakes, just like Dopey. As we get closer to Christmas, our hectic preparations will make us tired like Sleepy, and perhaps we may even become a bit Grumpy as a result. But overall, we should be Happy – this is a time for us to be joyful as we think about and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

“Happy we who trust in Jesus” [SASB No. 28]

Paul Heath

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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:

Today:

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!
Clearing main hall ready for builder to return	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!

Other days:

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	Sunday 17 th After meeting	The main hall will need to be cleared and equipment covered as work	Just stay after the meeting and help!

		will be taking place on gallery all week	
Cleaning building and setting up for Sunday	Friday 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 – 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

Christmas Cards

The Christmas Post box is available today for the last time, 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 today 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.

Flowers

Thank you to those people who have placed flowers on the holiness table throughout this year.

The new flower list is now available and is on the notice board ready for 2024 if you would like to place flowers for Sunday worship. Please add your details to the date required or speak to Viv Wallington. Thank you.

People

We continue to remember those in our fellowship who are poorly or needing our ongoing support and prayer. In particular, Pauline, who is recovering from a knee operation; Chris, Amiee's granddad who is in hospital; and Sally, Marion's daughter, who is very poorly. Tom is now out of hospital, Francis is home and Elise continues her rehabilitation in Thornbury. If you are not mentioned, I do apologise, but please let us know or remind us.

Bulletin over the Christmas Period

A weekly edition of this newsletter will continue to be published right up to Christmas this year, but the Christmas Eve edition will be the last before the New Year.

Dates for the Diary

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
Sunday 21 st January 2024	Messy Church
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th February 2024	Celebration Weekend

The Week Ahead

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

TODAY Sunday 10th December: *Last posting day for Christmas cards*

9:20am Time of Prayer

10am Family Carol Service

After meeting – main hall cleared & toys moved – please just help!

11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities

11:45am Carols on the Frontline - *Keynsham & Thornbury*

1pm-4pm Toy sorting – *please help if you can!*

Monday to Thursday – Toy & Gift Sorting

Monday 11th December: *Deadline for toy and gift donations*

The Week Ahead [Continued]

Tuesday 12th December:

10am Fitness Club
7:30pm Songsters - *Woodland Court*

Wednesday 13th December:

9am Tots on the Hill - *Meet at Kingswood Leisure Centre for Christmas Party*

Thursday 14th December:

12.30pm Lunch Club

Friday 15th December:

4pm - 6pm Cleaning and preparing hall for Sunday
- *Please add your name to rota*
6:30pm YP Band and Singing Company - *St Augustine's Church*

Saturday 16th December:

10am-12noon Carolling - *at Sainsbury's & Tesco's*
- *Collectors Required*
12noon-2pm Carolling - *at Sainsbury's*
- *Collectors Required*

Sunday 17th December:

9:20am Time of Prayer
10am Advent Peace: Peace of Mind ([Matthew 1:18-25](#))
Including enrolment of new soldiers
11.45am YP Band & Singing Company - *Park View*
5pm Main Carol Service
6:30pm Youth Fellowship

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

