

SUNDAY 24th & 31st December 2023



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

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Peace and Quiet

Christmas is almost here. Presents are wrapped, parcels delivered, shopping finished, carols shared. We've played, prayed, celebrated and decorated until we are all fit to drop. It seems that we have hardly had any time to ourselves. It has been so busy!

I know that many people still won't be able to truly relax until after the Christmas pud and mince pies have been served tomorrow, but perhaps many of us can now finally start to appreciate some of that *Peace* that Colin and Nicola have been talking about from the platform over the past few weeks. *The Peace of God that surpasses all understanding* [Philippians 4 v 7]. We all need some of that Peace at the end of these past few hectic weeks

Although not Christmassy in anyway, I have found myself thinking more and more of about the band arrangement:

*Mid all the traffic of the ways,
Turmoils without, within,
Make in my heart a quiet place
And come and dwell therein.*

I love the hurly-burly of Christmas, but it can become a little overwhelming and all-consuming. To take time to be quiet and reflect on the advent message is so important. We will never find *Peace* unless we allow ourselves the time to look for it.

Paul Heath

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People

At the time of writing none of our friends are in hospital, and most who have been in hospital are making good progress. However, we continue to uphold Sally (Marion's daughter) who has been moved a hospice near where she lives in Birmingham. We pray for Sally, Marion and their family at this time.

Over the coming week, please let us know if you need any support and we will try and assist.

This week, a few of us popped up to visit Arnold and Pat. We had a lovely time of fellowship with them and were able to share some carols. They send their love to all their friends at Staple Hill.



Our apologies for this being a little late, but we would like to say congratulations to Karen Parks, who celebrated her 21st birthday last Thursday.

Greetings from Peter and Pat Exon

Most weeks we watch the online meetings which we enjoy very much - many faces that we remember but also good to see new people in the corps. Its lovely to see you back in your hall, which is looking lovely ... a lot of hard work by the corps. As Staple Hill was our last appointment before retirement, it still holds a special place in our hearts. Peter is now Pat's carer as she has limited mobility. In the last 18 months, Pat has only been able to get to Blackpool Citadel twice. Peter is able to go to the corps most weeks and is still able to look after 14 retired officers in the area. They wish to be remembered to everyone at Staple Hill and wish a happy and blessed Christmas to all.

Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th January

The building work is continuing, and during the first week of the new year we will be undertaking some practical jobs. This will include packing away Christmas stuff, cleaning, moving equipment, basic DIY etc. If you are able to help – Please let us know the times you are available and we'll be in touch if we need you. Thank you.

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who has played a part during this Christmas in the teamwork that is 'Staple Hill Salvation Army'. A huge amount has been achieved and we are grateful that so many people have been shown God's love in practical ways and many more have heard the Christmas message. We continue to pray for these people – that they will realise that 'It's not just for Christmas'!

Bulletin over the Christmas Period

This bulletin covers 2 weeks, so the next edition will be on the 7th January 2024.



The Weeks Ahead

TODAY Sunday 24th December: *Christmas Eve*

10am Advent Peace: Spreading Peace ([Luke 2: 8-10](#))
After meeting, help needed please to prepare for Christmas Day
5pm Carols in the Square

Monday 25th December: *Christmas Day*

10:30am Refreshments served whilst our Christmas Guests arrive for a day of celebration
11am Christmas Day Worship: Prince of Peace

Sunday 31st December: *New Year's Eve*

10am All Age Worship – *including bacon sandwiches!*
(wear what you want)

Sunday 7th January 2024: *Covenant Sunday*

10am All Age Worship
11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities recommence

All midweek activities will resume week beginning 8th January (with the exception of Slimming World which will continue throughout Christmas period).

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 13 th January	Coffee Morning
Sunday 14 th January	Divisional Youth Section
Monday 15 th January	Mission Council Meeting
Sunday 21 st January	Church Unity Pulpit Exchange Messy Church
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th February	Celebration Weekend
Sunday 11 th February	Divisional Youth Section
Sunday 25 th February	Messy Church
Monday 26 th February	Mission Council Meeting