

SUNDAY 7th January 2024



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

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Time to Commit

Another year has passed, and it seems to have flown by quicker than ever! Every year that passes seems to be that bit shorter than the last. It is probably just an age thing – as I get older each year becomes a smaller percentage of my overall life experience. But because of that apparent shortening of years, it also means that the time I have left to make those life-changing decisions also becomes compressed. The days that remain are now less than they were at this time last year. So this year is precious. This year is important. This year I need to make some difference in this world. This year, I need to fully commit myself to God and His work.

Today is Covenant Sunday – a time to review and renew our commitment to God.

The passing of another year can be of little consequence to God - the one who was, and is, and is to come. He will rejoice whenever we commit ourselves fully to Him. The important thing is that we do not let another opportunity pass us by. Just think what will happen in our church, in our community and in our world when everyone is 100% committed!

Paul Heath

Corps Officers:	Majors Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones	Tel: 0117 9565232
Hall Address:	21 Broad Street, Staple Hill BS16 5LN	Tel: 0117 9569733
More Information:	www.staplehillsa.uk / contactstaplehill@gmail.com	
Prayer Fellowship:	staplehillprayers@gmail.com	

People

We were sad to learn that Marion was bereaved of her daughter, Sally, just before Christmas. We do uphold Marion and her family in prayer at this time.

We were also sad to learn that Barry Jenner died on the 28th December. Barry's funeral will be on: Monday, 22nd January 2024 at 11.30am at Westerleigh Crematorium, Woodland Chapel and we have been asked to officiate. Please remember the 'Jenner' family at this time.

For those of you who remember Barbara Kingston, we have been asked to let you know that she has recently moved into a care home. Please contact Mervin for details.

Just before Christmas, a couple of us went to see Pat and Arnold and it was lovely to spend some time in fellowship with them and present them with the monetary gift, card and memories that were collected. Pat has subsequently written:

Hello all,

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas. We have very much enjoyed watching all the recorded services, what a wonderful time we live in that we are able to join you in worship and see you.

We would like to thank you so much for all your cards, letters, gifts telephone calls, messages and generosity since leaving Bristol nine months ago.

We enjoyed very much the visit of a small number of the band who visited on the 18th December with Major Colin who brought the Christmas message to us and many of our friends who live in our village. This also included Colin presenting us with a specially made message box containing your personal messages together with your very generous gifts for which we are very humbled.

We send you all a most heartfelt thank you.

We pray God's Blessing on each one of you and all that happens at what will always be our home corps and in your new and beautiful premises.

Much love to you all

Arnold and Patricia XX

Refurbishment Progress

A big thank you to everyone who has helped this week with cleaning, fixing, mending and making. The builders are still with us, but we are hopeful that the majority of the work will be completed before the end of the month. This coming week the Audio Visual equipment will be installed, along with the internet and blinds. We are also hoping that the heating will be sorted which we are currently having to turn on manually, which makes for an even earlier start on Sundays!

As you will appreciate, we are still in a state of flux, but help with moving equipment and furniture on Sunday after worship would be appreciated along with resetting the hall and cleaning on Fridays at 4pm would be welcome. There are also ongoing cleaning, fixing, mending and making jobs so please offer if you can. There are also some trips to the recycling centre to be made - could you help with this?

Flowers

Our thanks to Pauline for providing the flowers at the front of the hall today. They are in memory of Bob.

We still have many slots available of the flower list for this year, so if you would like to provide some flowers to enhance our worship, then please see Viv who will be delighted to add your name to the list. It could be to mark a special occasion, in memory someone missed, or simply to just share the beauty of the blooms with your friends.

Celebration Weekend (9th – 11th February)

We are looking forward to celebrating our new facilities and 140 years of the Salvation Army in the Staple Hill community at our Celebration Weekend. We are so grateful to God and to the many people who have participated in, or supported, our corps in this part of Bristol. Hopefully you have already prioritised this in your calendar, here's some more details of the programme:

Celebration Meal – Friday 9th (7pm)

A chance for our congregation to begin the celebrations with a meal together (invitation only)

Celebration Day @ The Salvation Army – Saturday 10th (10am-2pm)

Everyone is welcome to join in the celebrations which will include a café, table-top sale, art & craft activities, children's activities, live music, exhibitions, interactive activities, guided tours of our refurbished building and more.

Celebration Concert – Saturday 10th (7pm)

Our bands and singing groups are providing a musical concert, giving us an opportunity to celebrate 140 years and our newly refurbished building and thank those who have made it all possible.

Celebration Worship – Sunday 11th (10am)

A very special worship meeting for all ages led by Colin & Nicola.

Celebration March – Sunday 11th (11.45am)

Our band will lead us on a march through Staple Hill.

Celebration Lunch – Sunday 11th (12.30pm)

An opportunity to join together at lunchtime – please bring food to share, everyone welcome.

It's not too far away now – so if you haven't already, invite your friends and family to join us. For those of you who receive our bulletin, but don't usually attend or live far away – we'd love to see you – why not plan a visit?

Please pray for this event, that it will be a time of celebration but also an opportunity to reach out to our community.

Want to get to know God better?

January is a time to make new year's resolutions and we were encouraged to do this during our worship on New Year's Eve. If you want to know God better in 2024, please take a look at the leaflet (attached to the e-mail for this bulletin) that gives ideas of different resources to use at home in your quiet time – all recommended by our own members. They include printed books and online materials and many of them are free so there is something for everyone. If there's something you find helpful, and we haven't included it, then please let Linda James know. We also have a stock of free books to take away today to give you a head start!



News from the Corps Treasurer

Letters

Corps treasurers' letters are available from the table at the back of the hall today for those who give by standing order or envelope. If you wish to give this way please see Gary, Les or the Majors.

Carolling 2023

A fantastic total of **£8741.38** has been collected from this year's carolling. A big thank you to those who played, collected and counted the donations. My arms are much longer after taking all the coins to the bank!

If you would like to see how much you individually collected in your tins, please see the notice at the back of the hall.

Christmas Reception

Thank you to all those who manned the reception leading up to Christmas. Along with the toys donated, just over **£5,000** had also been donated.

It always amazes me that the general public are so kind sending in donations to Staple Hill Corps, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. We don't always know who these people are, yet their kindness and generous giving to The Salvation Army must stem from the work we do within the community.

Building Fund

During 2024 there will be building fund-raising events and details for those who wish to give. If you can't wait and wish to give towards the fund, please see the Gary, Les or the Majors.

Coffee Mornings relaunch

Next Saturday sees the return of our monthly coffee morning. Please support and bring your friends – it’s a great opportunity to introduce people to our church and raise money for the Building Fund at the same time. We will also have some musical accompaniment from the band this month (then is an open band practice – all welcome). Here’s the dates for the whole year if you want to put it in your calendar:



13th January, 10th February (part of celebration weekend), 2nd March, 13th April, 18th May, 29th June, 27th July, 17th August, 7th September, 12th October, 9th November.

Dates for the Diary

If you didn’t pick up a 2024 calendar last year, please make sure you have one now (attached to bulletin email) and add the dates to your diary. Here’s some dates coming up soon:

Monday 15 th January	Mission Council Meeting
Sunday 21 st January	Church Unity Pulpit Exchange – Gareth Matthews from Life Church in Fishponds to preach here Messy Church
Monday 30 th January	CAMEO
Friday 9 th – Sunday 11 th February	Celebration Weekend (Please see more details elsewhere in bulletin)
Sunday 11 th February	Divisional Youth Section
Sunday 25 th February	Messy Church
Monday 26 th February	Mission Council Meeting CAMEO

The Week Ahead

TODAY Sunday 7th January: *Covenant Sunday*

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

Tuesday 9th January:

10am Keep Fit Class
11am-12noon Extra Slice Group
- (leader: Kelvin) – *10:30am for coffee*
6:30pm YP Band Practice
7:15pm Singing Company Practice
8pm Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 10th January:

9:30am-11am Tots on the Hill
3:30pm-4:30pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Gerry)
7:45pm-9pm Extra Slice Group at Kelvin & Linda's house
8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group online (leader: Beth)

Thursday 11th January:

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

Friday 12th January:

4pm-6pm Cleaning and Setting up hall ready for Sunday

Saturday 13th January:

10am-12noon Coffee Morning (coordinated by Linda)
Including an *Open Band Practice* – all welcome

Sunday 14th January:

10am All Age Worship
NEW SERIES: *Shaped for a Purpose: Shaping Up!*
11.30am-12:15pm Children & Youth Activities
From 3pm Divisional Youth Section *at Bristol Citadel (see advert)*