

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2024



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

staplehillbulletin@gmail.com

Thoughts from the Major

(Taken from article for the February edition of Downend Voice)

This time of the year, whilst cold, is the time when most holidays are booked. Christmas and the New Year have been and gone, and the gloomy weather and dark evenings have many people looking forward to their next holiday. How you like to holiday is different to me, your neighbours, your friends and colleagues. Maybe you like a lazy holiday, an action, adrenaline-packed holiday, a cruise or staying in a luxury hotel, or like us, camping.

And as we walk around villages and hamlets on holiday, we see older houses and wonder 'who lives in a house like that' and occasionally, I look in local estate agents to see how much it is to live in the area and romanticise about living in our holiday destination.

Some houses, just like us, have histories – have you ever watched the television programme, 'A House Through Time', where the history of one house is researched and presented? As we journey through the history of the house, we're 'a fly on the wall' learning about all the families who have lived there.

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But just as the inhabitants of houses change, so houses change and develop – some older 3-bedroom terrace houses are now 2-bedroom terrace houses with an upstairs bathroom! If you've done any decorating or refurbishment work on an older property, you often find references to the past such as old newspapers or notes from previous occupants. When I was a boy during the 2-week summer shut down of the factory where my dad worked, we would spend a week in a caravan by the coast and a week decorating one room in the house. Before the last length of paper was pasted and put up, the date and number of rolls of paper used would be written on the wall. A note for next time, or the next person. 'If these walls could talk' – very often they can.

But holidays come to an end and being a bit of a 'home bird' I enjoy getting home and sitting in a comfy chair and drinking a cup of tea – we camp, so a bit of luxury is always welcome after 'roughing it'.

Churches are described as the 'House of God,' places where we can find respite from the demands of life and think more deeply about spiritual matters. There are many older Church buildings in this area (like ours) are a 'house through time' and steeped in local history. Ever wanted to be a 'fly on the wall' to know what happens in one? That's easy now, as many churches record their worship so you can have little peep to see what is happening – 'these walls are talking' on-line. Maybe you haven't been to church for a while, why not be a 'home bird' and find your way back. In John's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples,

'In my Father's house there are many rooms' ([John 14:2](#)).

There is room for you. Why not make 2024 the year that you visit a 'House of God'.

Major Colin Hylton-Jones

People

We continue to remember those in our fellowship who are mourning the loss of loved ones. On Friday we celebrated Elsie's life and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mike, Ian, Carron and their families. This coming week we will be officiating at Sally's funeral (Marion's daughter), the details of which are:

- The celebration of Sally's life will take place on Monday, 5th February at Abbots Morton Village Hall (WR7 4NA) at 12.30pm followed by the committal at Westall Park Natural Burial Ground (B96 6JY) at 2.00pm, before returning to Abbots Morton for a celebration reception.

We were sad to learn of the tragic loss of life in Knowle West last weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives and the local community. Louise, Karen and Natilie live very close to the incident, so we uphold them in prayer at this time.

Cleaning

A massive thank you to those who have been coming to clean at 4pm every Friday afternoon, it has really been appreciated. We need help again this week, as it would be good to get the hall ready for the celebration weekend and the meal in the evening. Thank you.

Help needed please

There is much to be done before we take part in our Celebration weekend so please help if you can – please let Nicola know when you're available (daytime or evening), thank you.

Celebration Meal

Friday, 9th February 2024

We are looking forward to our Celebration weekend, which will start with our Celebration Meal on the Friday evening. Most Invitations have been distributed - it was a massive task to collate, but if you don't get one, it's not because we don't love you! It is just us not getting things quite right – so just let us know. Please reply by ***BEFORE THE END OF TODAY*** as we need to know numbers for catering

Food Bank

Our store of food items for those in need is running short of a few items. As you will appreciate, food banks can be a lifeline to some people within our community, and so we want to continue to provide this important service. If you are able to purchase one or two items from the list below, it would be very much appreciated:

- Tinned Potatoes
- Fray Bentos pies
- Tinned meat e.g. stewed beef, ham, corned beef, etc
- Tinned tuna
- Long life milk
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned rice pudding
- Biscuits
- Tea
- Coffee

If you are unable to shop but would like to give a monetary donation instead, please see Gerry or Colin. Thankyou.

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?

It would be good to hear from those who watch our worship online but are unable to attend due to distance – please send us a message and we will put any messages on screen during the weekend, thank you.

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

Flowers

Thankyou to both Daisy Usher and Michael Dyer for providing flowers at the front of the hall this week - in memory of Maurice, and Elsie respectively.

Celebration Fun Day Planning Meeting

Interested in making the Celebration Fun Day run smoothly and be a truly great day for everyone? Then join in a Celebration Fun Day Planning Meeting this Sunday (4th) between 12:30pm and 2pm.

Building

The contractors have been with us all week installing the 'track' for the folding doors, and are returning this week to continue the process. To facilitate this, we will need to stack the chairs after worship on Sunday. There is still a problem with the heating, which we are trying to manage.

Dates for the Diary

Here are some dates that are coming up soon:

Sunday 25 th February	Messy Church
Monday 26 th February	Mission Council Meeting CAMEO
Friday 1 st March	Women's World Day of Prayer
Saturday 2 nd March	Coffee Morning First Aid Training Course
Sunday 3 rd March	Self Denial Altar Service
Sunday 10 th March	Mothers' Day



**YOUTH SECTION
RELOADED**

TIMES
15:00-15:30 - Welcome
15:30-16:30 - Chorus
16:30 - 17:30 - Small Groups
17:30 - 18:30 - Youth Band
18:30 - 18:40 - Reflection

The poster features a dark blue background with colorful abstract shapes (circles and lines) in yellow, light blue, and red. At the bottom, there is a row of stylized, colorful human figures in various poses and outfits.



**YOUTH SECTION
RELOADED**

14/01/2024 - Youth Section
(Bristol Citadel)

11/02/2024 - Youth Section
(Bristol Citadel)

03/03/2024 - Youth Section on tour
...Bridgwater Timing TBC...

The poster features a dark blue background with colorful abstract shapes (circles and lines) in yellow, light blue, and red. At the bottom, there is a row of stylized, colorful human figures in various poses and outfits.

The Week Ahead

TODAY Sunday 4th February:

- 10am All Age Worship
'Shaped for a Purpose: Shapeabilities'
11.30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities

Tuesday 6th February:

- 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 7th February:

- 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 8th February:

- 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)
8pm Senior Band Practice

Friday 9th February:

- 4pm Cleaning and Setting up hall
7pm Celebration Meal (*please RSVP to invitation*)

Saturday 10th February:

- 10am-2pm Celebration Concert
7pm Celebration Concert

Sunday 11th February:

- 10am Celebration Worship
11.45am Celebration March *to leave from Page Park*
12.30pm Celebration Lunch
(Please bring food to share – sign-up sheet available)
From 3pm Divisional Youth Section *at Bristol Citadel (see advert)*