

SUNDAY 19th January 2025



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

Fog

It was a dark and foggy morning when I left Manchester on the train this week. The ground was white with frost, and the mist swirled contemptuously around frozen trees, concealing their trunks and giving the branches an otherworldly, disjointed appearance. Nothing seemed solid. Nothing certain beyond a few feet. All things shifting, ever-changing, without shape or definition. A mysterious, eerie, damp world assaulting my senses and my grip on reality.

I don't like uncertain things - I like structure, to plan ahead, know exactly what I'm doing and where I am going. Fog is not a form of weather that I enjoy (other than when indulging my creative writing skills).

So many people go through their lives in a kind of fog, not being able to see where they are heading or understand the nature of the life they are living. A fog that results from a lack of faith. How can anyone plan what they do tomorrow, next week, next year without being able to see what lies beyond our mortal existence? We need to let them know, to help lift the fog that pervades their lives. We have that responsibility ... to bring the clarity of Christ to a mirky, uncertain world.

Paul Heath

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People

There are one or two people who are or have been in hospital in recent days. As of writing, Francis is in Elgar Ward, as is Nick's dad and Becky is now home following a knee operation this week. A number of people and families are experiencing ill health. If you are unwell, look after yourselves and if you need anything, please let us know.

On a personal note, thank you for those inquiring about my brother. He was admitted to hospital before Christmas and despite two operations on his foot, he underwent a below the knee amputation last week. I am hoping to visit him (he is in hospital in North London) after toddlers on Wednesday.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As part of the local 'pulpit' exchange, we welcome Mike Waine as our 'preacher' this week, who is a member of the Resound Church. I, Colin, am leading worship at the URC in Mangotsfield.

Next Sunday, 26th, Nicola is away at the Divisional Growing Young Leaders conference.

Growing Young Leaders

Please pray for Noah as he attends the Growing Young Leaders weekend next weekend (24th - 26th January) and for Nicola who is on the staff team.

Calling all soldiers

International Headquarters are undertaking a survey about the soldier's covenant and would like to know what you think. If you are a soldier, please email Nicola for a QR code to access the survey, thank you.

The Salvation Army supports evacuees and responders in California

Please take a look at the noticeboard for an update of The Salvation Army's response to the wildfires in California.

Ongoing Refurbishment Work

We are expecting the contractors to be with us over the coming week to pick up some of the 'snagging' items on our refurbishment project. As a result, there will be some disruption which we will try and keep to a minimum. We may need some help towards the end of next week to clean and tidy, so if you are available, please let us know. This Sunday we may need some help to tidy things away. Please help if you can.

Flowers

We have 2 flower arrangements at the front of the hall today:

- Pauline Perkins and family have provided flowers in memory of Bob.
- Mike Dyer and family have provided an arrangement in memory of Elsie.

Thanks

I am writing this article to show how grateful I am for all the Good Samaritans I have found since coming to this wonderful association of people. Special thanks to Marion, Geraldine, Major Colin and Major Nicola. I am sure there may be some banter among my lunch-time buddies who allowed me to share the lunch table that Terry and myself have quite a lot in common. Thank you all so much. *Ian Trivett*

Becky would like everyone know that she is now home from hospital and recovering from knee surgery and would like to thank all for prayers, cards and messages.

The Week Ahead

TODAY - 19th January: **Unity Sunday**

- 10am All Age Worship
Vising speaker: Mike Waine from Resound Church
- 11:30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities
- 5:30-7pm Pulse Youth Event *in our building*



Tuesday 21st January:

- 9:30am-2:30pm Employment Plus with Tyrone *-appointment needed*
- 10am-2pm Open Doors *(soup lunch available at 12:30pm)*
- 10am-11am Fitness Club
- 11am-12noon Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) *at the hall*
- From 6:30pm YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 22nd January:

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

Thursday 23rd January:

- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 11:15am Thursday Church
- 12:30pm Lunch Club - *booking essential*
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group *at Colin & Nicola's*
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Bethany) *at Bev & Jon's*
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Ian & Rachel) *online*

Friday 24th January:

- 7:30am-12noon Slimming World Groups
- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 4pm Cleaning Hall

Next Weekend

Sunday 26th January:

10am

All Age Worship – *led by Major Colin*

'Returning to 1 Corinthians': [1 Corinthians 8](#)

11:30am-12:15pm

Children's & Youth Activities

Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Monday 27 th January	CAMEO Craft Group
Sunday 9 th February	Messy Church
Saturday 15 th February	Coffee Morning
Sunday 16 th February	Pulse Youth Event
Monday 24 th February	CAMEO Craft Group