

SUNDAY 17th November 2024



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

Christmas Prep

I always think that there are certain markers in the diary that signify when we are allowed a change in our focus. We have sailed through harvest, and now Remembrance Day is also in the past we can now legitimately start thinking about Christmas. You will have noticed quite a lot of information in the bulletin already about the upcoming preparations!

It seems that the festive season has arrived especially early this year. Decorations are already up in Downend and many other shopping centres and Santa's grotto has been assembled in Yate during the past few days. And would you believe it – I went into Greggs on Friday (naughty, but nice!) and they had already started piping non-stop Christmas music to the shoppers. At the end of this coming week – we also have our first carolling event with the band.

Do you feel ready for all this? I don't think I am – but that is the point, isn't it? The extended season enables us to prepare ourselves. And the longer the season, the more opportunities there are to share with others the true meaning of Christmas.

For those old enough to remember the musical Godspell, the words '[Prepare ye the way of the Lord](#)' come to mind. If reading this on-line - click the link to hear a wonderful rendition of this simple melody.

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	
Bulletin:	staplehillbulletin@gmail.com	

People

Please remember those in our fellowship who are unwell, recuperating from treatment, or living with long-term health conditions. Please uphold each other in prayer and where possible make a phone call or send message.

Remember that we have a Prayer Fellowship to uphold those in and around our fellowship. If you would like to know more information please speak with Rita or pick up a leaflet.

On a personal note, some have been asking whether I [Colin] passed my M.A. Yes - just waiting for the certificate to come through the post.

Many happy returns to Pauline Perkins who celebrated her birthday yesterday.

Cleaning

As a church we are blessed to have a group of committed friends who keep our facilities clean and tidy. We meet every Friday at 3pm, and mop, Hoover, dust, scrub and get the hall ready for Sunday. We owe a debt of gratitude to our unassuming cleaners - thank you. If you would like to join and you can't help on a Friday, there are other times during the week when we need help - please speak to Colin for more information.

Next Sunday - 24th November

You will see that next Sunday our Divisional Leaders will be leading worship. Please give them a good Staple Hill welcome.

Casual Uniform

If anyone would like to order any casual uniform please can you let Deb Hatcliffe know **TODAY** (i.e. Sunday, 17th November), so that it can be included in the next order.

Flowers

Our thanks to Morag and Linda for the beautiful flowers at the front of the hall today.

Christmas Day

We're all set to welcome people on Christmas Day again this year. The day is for anyone who would appreciate sharing Christmas dinner around the table with others in the community. The day includes a Christmas dinner, entertainment, lots of laughs and all sorts of goodies to take home. If you want to share with us or know of anyone who would like an invitation, then please ask Nicola or Deb.

We are also looking for people to help us on the day. We need people to help all day as Table Hosts, making people welcome, serving food and chatting with guests and helping in the kitchen. We're also looking for people to pick up guests to arrive by 10.30am and people to take them home again at 3.15pm. Please see Nicola if you can help in any way. Thank you!

Christmas Reception

During the Christmas period, many people want to donate to our Christmas Appeal so from Monday 25th November until Christmas Eve our 'Christmas Reception' will be open from 10am to 12 noon each day (except Saturdays). If you are able to help, please put your name on the rota on the noticeboard. The receptionists are there to welcome anyone who comes into our building, accepting and recording donations (toys, food and money) and answering any questions people may have (full training will be given!) There are often other jobs to do if it's quiet too! If you want to know more, please ask Nicola.

Collectors needed please

The rotas for carolling are now on the noticeboard – if you are able to collect, please sign up.





Christmas with

Staple Hill Salvation Army 2024

Broad Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5LN

Sunday 1st December

10am Family Carol Service

5pm Light up a Life Service

Sunday 8th December

10am Toy Service

Sunday 15th December

4pm Messy Church

Sunday 22nd December

5pm Community Carol Service

Christmas Eve

5pm Carols in Fountain Square

Christmas Day

11am All Age Christmas Worship

Christmas Promises

Care for Creation Goals

After the recent focus on the Mission Priority 'Care for Creation', the following goals have been agreed by the Mission Council. If you can help in any way or want to know more - please see Joe Saint.

- Electronic Christmas card available, encourage people to reduce actual cards (in place)
- Messy Church, etc. to be more mindful about using sustainable materials (by November 2025)
- Provide containers for coffee grounds in kitchen and at coffee machine and organise how/where to dispose (by December 2025)
- Improve recycling: (by 10th January 2025)
 - Increase number of recycling bins in rooms
 - Reduce the number of 'normal' bins in rooms
 - People tasked with emptying and sorting recycling bins
 - Try to obtain green wheelie bins for bin cupboard
- Bring a small group of people together to complete Eco Church Questionnaire <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/> (by February 2025)
- Investigate possibilities of food waste collection from council or elsewhere (by February 2025)
- Identify someone to liaise with local councillors so we can join with local litter picking sessions (by February 2025)
- Plan a 'Meat free week' during 2025 (by February 2025)
- Work with THQ re installation of solar panels (ongoing)
- Occasional articles in weekly bulletin regarding 'Care for Creation' initiatives/ ideas/ advice (ongoing)
- Investigate the possibility of installing Swift boxes on roof and offering 'sponsor a box' to congregation (by April 2025)
- 'Care for Creation' Newsletter to be produced twice a year to communicate news and share easy ideas for individuals to implement in church and at home (By June 2025)

The Week Ahead

TODAY - Sunday 17th November:

10am	All Age Worship <i>led by Majors Colin & Nicola</i> We are the Church 5: So think about each other' 1 Corinthians 9 vs 19-27
11.30am-12:15pm	Children's & Youth Activities
4pm-6pm	Messy Church
5:30pm	Pulse at Bristol Citadel



Tuesday 19th November:

All day	Employment Plus with Tyrone
10am	Fitness Club
11am-12noon	Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) <i>at the hall</i>
10am-2pm	Open Doors (<i>homemade soup available at 12:30pm</i>)
From 6:30pm	YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice
8pm	Senior Band Practice

Wednesday 20th November:

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

Thursday 21st November:

10am-12noon	Open Doors
11:15am-12pm	Thursday morning Extra Slice group <i>at the hall</i>
12.30pm	Lunch Club
8pm-9pm	Extra Slice Group <i>at Colin & Nicola's</i>
8pm-9pm	Extra Slice Group (leader: Bethany) <i>at Bev & Jon's</i>
8:15pm-9:15pm	Extra Slice Group (leaders: Ian & Rachel) <i>online</i>

Friday 22nd November:

10am-12noon	Open Doors
4pm	Cleaning Hall
5:30pm	Downend Lights Switch-On supported by our band

Next Weekend

Sunday 24th November:

- 10am All Age Worship
led by our Divisional Leaders, Majors Paul & Gill Billard
- 11.30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities

Dates for the Diary

Here are some dates that are coming up soon:

Monday 25 th November	10am: Christmas Reception opens 8pm CAMEO Craft Group
Tuesday 26 th November	Last YP & Songster Practices
Saturday 30 th November	Carolling
Sunday 1 st December	10am Family Carol Service 5pm Light up a Life with St Peter's Hospice
Tuesday 3 rd December	Last Senior Band Practice
Thursday 5 th December	11:15am Thursday Church Carol Service 12:30pm Lunch Club Christmas Dinner
Saturday 7 th December	Christmas on the Hill
Sunday 8 th December	10am Toy Service (last day to bring gifts) 1pm Toy sorting
Saturday 14 th December	Carolling
Sunday 15 th December	10am All Age Worship 4pm-6pm Messy Church
Wednesday 18 th Dec.	9:30am Tots on the Hill Christmas Party
Saturday 21 st December	Carolling
Sunday 22 nd December	10am All Age Worship 5pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Christmas Day	11am Christmas Day Worship