

SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

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Local ...  
Lively ...  
Loving

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## Smile

November in our household was a month of birthdays, and it is always difficult to make sure all the cards are posted well before time. Geoff and I have received some beautiful cards this year, which we didn't expect, and we have enjoyed many blessings from them.

One card (Geoff's) is placed on the window sill. It is bright yellow showing a lovely smiling face, and no matter where you sit it is seen. It makes you smile back, and you can't help being cheered.



A smiling face is a gift from God, and I find it a real treat and provides a tonic. I'm told a smiling face is like a dose of medicine. It certainly gives me something to think about. So on my gloomy days I shall try to smile more!

As the Lord smiles upon us each day, may we too "KEEP SMILING".

*The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.* [Psalm 126 v3]

Doris Pearce

*Definitely something to keep in mind as we take to the streets during our carolling sessions. We must share the joy of the Lord with everyone we meet!*

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## People

Following his stay in hospital Francis Sheppard is now home. Please pray for Francis, along with those recuperating for illness and surgery. As we enter this busy time, please take time for yourself and some time to remember those in our fellowship for whom this is a difficult time.

Some of you will remember the 'Hobbs' family who were part of the corps many years ago. We were sad to learn that Melvyn Hobbs has recently passed away. Whilst not living in the area, he was very interested in the corps, through his sister Yvonne, and regularly supported our work.

## Advent Wreath

Our advent wreath has again been given by Lilian Baker in memory of her mother, but special thanks also to Grace Yue who made and arranged the wreath.

## Flower List 2025

The flower list for 2025 is now on the notice board. If you would like to place flowers on the holiness table in memory of someone or to commemorate a special birthday/anniversary then please just add your details to the list – you don't need any special reason to provide the flowers, but we do like to mention it if there is!

Thank you also to all those people who have placed flowers during this year which have enhanced our worship and reminded us of those who have left us – those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

Thank you. Viv.

# A calendar of kindness



Salvationist offers daily acts to spread light in the darkness this Advent

3

Pray for someone who is unwell



15

Make a Christmas colouring pack and give it to a family

1

Invite someone who would be on their own for a cuppa and a chat

13

Do a chore for a neighbour

7

Look for volunteering opportunities in your area

20

Politely compliment someone's outfit



18

Donate to a good cause

11

Go litter-picking



9

Forgive someone

21

Pray for a problem someone has told you about

4

Invite someone to something at your corps or centre

23

Make or buy a surprise baked good for someone

8

Invite a friend or neighbour to watch a Christmas film

14

Give your undivided attention to someone

2

Remind someone why you love them

16

Smile at a stranger



5

Remind someone that God can do more than they can imagine

17

Share an encouraging Bible passage

19

Give flowers for your corps to display or pass on



6

Encourage someone



10

Message or visit someone who is ill, in hospital or housebound

22

Tell someone that you're praying for them

12

Intentionally listen to someone

24

Thank God for giving the greatest gift of all



# 2025 Calendar

Please pick up a copy of the 2025 calendar – here's a few dates not to miss!

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Care and Repair week – lots of cleaning, DIY and sorting jobs to be done, including decorating the Bradbury Hall
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Day of Prayer in our building
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Generous Discipleship Sunday
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Band weekend
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	Divisional Summer School
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	Divisional Junior Camp
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Back to School Sunday
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Weekend
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Young People's Prizegiving weekend

## **Thursday Carol Service**

Everyone is welcome to join us for a Carol Service this Thursday at 11.15am – 12 noon – arrive any time after 10am for refreshments.

## **Stars, Light & Emmanuel**

Available from today - a copy of 'Stars, Light & Emmanuel' – pick up a paper copy or click on the link in your email. Please use and spend a bit of time thinking about the Christmas Story in the midst of all the busyness. Use it at home on your own – or if your Extra Slice group is meeting you can discuss it together – or why not just arrange to meet someone for coffee and take a look together – gingerbread latte anyone?

## **Christmas Trees**

The busy season has well and truly started this week and you will have seen the transformation in our own building – a big thank you to everyone who has helped this week – with special mention to Neil.

## **Help needed please**

There are still a few gaps in the carolling collecting rotas and reception rotas so if you could help fill them, please do. Also, we are still looking for help on Christmas Day, in particular providing lifts for our guests – if you can help, please speak to Nicola. Thank you

# Christmas Cards

We are encouraging everyone to 'Care for Creation' this year and instead of sending physical cards, add a message to the Staple Hill Salvation Army card – there is a link in your bulletin email, or just write down a message and give it to Mark Dickens to add to the card. The messages will be shown on the screen near the end of December. For those of you who can't give up your paper cards, the post box is available from today until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December – make sure you address the cards with the full name please. Donations for the use of the post box, or the electronic card will go towards the building fund. Thank you.



 **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*

# The Week Ahead

## TODAY - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 10am            | Family Carol Service <i>led by Majors Colin &amp; Nicola</i><br><i>'The Impossible Promise'</i> |
| 11.30am-12:15pm | Children's & Youth Activities   |
| 5pm             | Light Up a Life Service <i>with St Peter's Hospice</i>  |

*Christmas Card Box available from today to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December*

## Every Day (except Saturday's):

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| 10am-12noon | Christmas Reception |
|-------------|---------------------|

## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| All day  | Employment Plus with Tyrone                            |
| 10am     | Fitness Club   |
| 10am-2pm | Open Doors <i>(homemade soup available at 12:30pm)</i> |
| 8pm      | Last Senior Band Practice                              |

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:

- |        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| 9:30am | Tots on the Hill |
|--------|------------------|

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 10am-12noon  | Open Doors   |
| 11:15am-12pm | Thursday Church Christmas Service<br><i>Refreshments available from 10am</i> |
| 12.30pm      | Lunch Club Christmas Dinner  |

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 10am-12noon | Open Doors    |
| 4pm         | Cleaning Hall |

*As it is now the Christmas period, please check with your leaders about when your Extra Slice Group is meeting*

## Next Weekend

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December:

10am-4:30pm Christmas on the Hill

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

*Please feel free to wear Christmas jumpers to worship on this day*

10am Toy Service *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*  
*'Christmas Promises: The Promise to God's people'*  
[\(Jeremiah 31: 31-34\)](#)

11.30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities

12noon Frontline carols with the band

1pm - 4pm Toy sorting – *anyone welcome to help*

## Dates for the Diary

Here are some dates that are coming up soon:

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Carolling
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	10am All Age Worship 4pm-6pm Messy Church
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9:30am Tots on the Hill Christmas Party
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carolling
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10am All Age Worship 5pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Christmas Day	11am Christmas Day Worship
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Care and repair week. Lots of cleaning, DIY and sorting jobs to be done, inc. decorating the Bradbury Hall
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Day of Prayer in our building
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Generous Discipleship Sunday