

SUNDAY 15th December 2024

 **Staple
Hill
Bulletin**



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



*1 Corinthians 13 -
A Christmas Version*



If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozen of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

...In other words...

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But the gift of love will endure.



Poem by Sharon Jaynes – taken from Celebrating a Christ-Centered Christmas

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People

As of writing, we are unaware of anyone being in hospital, with Wesley and Pat now home. Please continue to pray for all those in our fellowship who need our support and encouragement at this time.

Christmas Eve:

As in previous years we are planning our Christmas Eve Carols in the Square. it is always a well-attended event and one which we need lots of help with. I appreciate that it is Christmas Eve and you will want to relax and celebrate, but if you are able to help practically, then please speak to Colin.

Next Sunday – Carol Service 5pm

Next Sunday is our main carol service of the year and a fantastic opportunity to invite your friends and family along (especially now we have more capacity for bigger numbers) – it will be lovely to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas together.

Congratulations!

A big congratulations to Aston and Karen who, during a visit to Edinburgh this week, got engaged! Please pray for them both as they embark on this next life adventure together.



Thank you

It has been so busy this week! Christmas on the Hill, despite the storm had near normal attendance! So thank you to the reduced number of volunteers who worked extra hard and to Myriam and the other team leaders, for all the coordination. It was an amazing opportunity to interact with hundreds of local people in our own building.

A big thank you, also to everyone who has helped during this week with toys & food parcels (and the clear-up!) – it has been incredibly busy, but our efforts mean that hundreds of children and families across South Gloucestershire will have a better Christmas. Please continue to pray for these families as they receive their parcels. Photos will be available soon!

Care and Repair week

Thursday 2nd – Tuesday 7th January

Don't forget to keep these dates free for 'Care & Repair' week – lots of opportunities to sort, tidy, clean and DIY.

Christmas Cards

TODAY is the last day to post your card or give your message to Mark Dickens for the electronic card. Don't forget your donation for this service which will go towards the building fund. Thank you. After today, please do not add any cards to the piles – you'll need to play postman yourself!



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 15th December:

(Last day for posting Christmas Cards in the box. Please make sure any final messages for the Corps E-Card are passed on to Mark Dickens)

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| 10am | All Age Worship <i>led by Majors Colin & Nicola</i>
'Christmas Promises: The Promise to Mary'
(Luke 1: 26-38) |
| 11.30am-12:15pm | Children's & Youth Activities |
| 4pm-6pm | Messy Church |
| 6:30pm | Youth Movie Night |

Every Day (except Saturday's):

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| 10am-12noon | Christmas Reception |
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Tuesday 17th December:

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| | <i>No Employment Plus this week</i> |
| 10am | Fitness Club |
| 10am-2pm | Open Doors (<i>homemade soup available at 12:30pm</i>) |
| 7pm | Frontline Carols – <i>YP Sections at Park View</i> |

Wednesday 18th December:

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| 9:30am | Tots on the Hill Christmas Party |
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Thursday 19th December:

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| 10am-12noon | Open Doors |
| 7pm | Frontline Carols - <i>Songsters</i> |

Friday 20th December:

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

During this Christmas period, please check with your leaders about when your Extra Slice Group is meeting

Next Weekend

Saturday 21st December:

10am-12pm Carolling *at Morrisons, Fishponds*
12:30pm-4:30pm Carolling *at Tesco, Yate*

Sunday 22nd December:

10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*
'Christmas Promises: The Promise to Joseph'
([Matthew 1: 18-25](#))
11.30am-12:15pm Children's & Youth Activities
5pm Carol Service 'Christmas Promises'

Dates for the Diary

Here are some dates that are coming up soon:

Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Christmas Day	11am Christmas Day Worship
Thursday 2 nd – Tuesday 7 th January	Care and repair week. Lots of cleaning, DIY and sorting jobs to be done, inc. decorating the Bradbury Hall
Friday 7 th March	World Day of Prayer in our building
Sunday 9 th March	Generous Discipleship Sunday

Bulletin

Please note that the Bulletin next week will be the last one before the New Year. No bulletin will be produced on the 29th December.