

**SUNDAY 23rd November 2025**



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

## **Making a list, checking it twice, ...**

Go on, tell me you're now NOT humming that tune of the title as you read?! There are many types of lists that help us be more efficient in the run up

to Christmas: 'Present buying' lists; 'shopping' lists; 'To Do' lists; 'Christmas Card' lists; 'Address' lists; 'Recipe' lists; 'who I wrapped those Christmas presents for' lists; and no doubt many more! One thing that made us smile this year when looking at the stats was the amount of people that viewed our last "Advent Carols and Readings" online in AUGUST!! – were they already thinking about their Christmas lists?!

The band are at their first Carol Playing event of the season this coming Friday evening at the Downend Lights switch on, and so we are including this week, Colin's thought from the Downend Voice. The band have a HUGE list of events.

*"The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."* Proverbs 21:5 – encourages careful planning.

This coming advent season let's set Christ at the top of our list, and not get so busy as to forget His presence amongst the presents. **Mark D**

### **The BIG Christmas to-do list**

#### **October**

- ☐ Create a budget.
- ☐ Decide on Christmas decor.
- ☐ Plan your Christmas food.
- ☐ Start a gift list.
- ☐ Start a stocking filler list.
- ☐ Create a Christmas card list.
- ☐ Create a Christmas event and activities calendar.
- ☐ Bake a Christmas cake.
- ☐ Check if your Christmas lights work.
- ☐ Take your Christmas card photo.
- ☐ Plan your travelling Book tickets, or work out routes.

- ☐ Make a toy and food donation list.
- ☐ Make a Random Act of Kindness list.
- ☐ Buy gift wrap.
- ☐ Make a Christmas bucket list.
- ☐ Make an advent calendar.
- ☐ Write out the grocery list for your Christmas food shopping.
- ☐ Write your Christmas cards, add stamps, and address them.
- ☐ Plan your Black Friday shopping.
- ☐ Start buying Christmas gifts.
- ☐ Set up a wrapping station.
- ☐ Wrap presents that need making.



- ☐ Drop off toy and food donations.
- ☐ Build a gingerbread house.
- ☐ Make or buy a Christmas wreath.
- ☐ Bake Christmas cookies.
- ☐ Write letters to Santa.
- ☐ Do the Christmas food grocery shopping, or order online.
- ☐ Wrap gifts for friends and family.
- ☐ Hold a cookie swap.
- ☐ Wrap shopping shufflers and stuff stockings.
- ☐ Hang stockings.
- ☐ Place gifts under the tree.
- ☐ Plan and write out your Christmas day timeline.
- ☐ Leave cookies out for Santa.
- ☐ Have a Merry Christmas!

#### **November**

- ☐ Buy or start making your Christmas decor.
- ☐ Book Christmas events, shows, pantomimes, etc.
- ☐ Book a Santa Claus visit.

#### **December**

- ☐ Mail Christmas cards.
- ☐ Mail gifts.
- ☐ Buy a Christmas tree and decorate it.
- ☐ Put up Christmas decorations.

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## Colin in the Downend Voice

After last year's success of walking up Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in Scotland), this summer we found ourselves camping in the shadow of Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England. Why not, we thought, let's walk this one! Unfortunately, our campsite was on the opposite side of the mountain and necessitated a 2-hour drive round the base to get to our start point. After an early start, followed by a long walk, the thought of a 2-hour return drive didn't appeal. A quick look at the map and then reprogramming the Satnav, found a quicker, shorter alternative route using B roads and farm tracks. What my map and Satnav didn't tell me was that this route took us over 'Hardknott Pass', which has the following description:

*The Hardknott Pass in the Lake District is widely considered England's hardest road due to its extremely steep gradients, hairpin bends, and single-track design. It has a maximum gradient of 33% (1 in 3) and is known for being particularly challenging and treacherous for drivers.*

I can testify to the accuracy of this description, as it was an extremely hard route to navigate, especially in a car designed for family holidays rather than off-roading. However, we carefully managed to navigate the route until just reaching the summit of Hardknott Pass, when we had to stop to give way to an oncoming car. Unfortunately, in addition to the gradient, the gravel on the road meant we couldn't achieve any traction even with the family out of the car and pushing. We were stuck. The only solution was to reverse back where the gradient was less steep and the road surface more stable. The family jumped back in the car and with some acceleration we were able to conquer the summit and slowly make our way down. It was at times a challenging drive, more challenging than walking Scafell Pike!

Christmas is a busy time with many demands on our time and resources, and we can lose focus on the reason for the season and forget the simplicity of the Christmas message. In John's gospel (John 1:14) we are told that Jesus ... '*made his dwelling among us.*' This Christmas take time, reverse and spend some moments reflecting on God's gift for us all, the birth of His Son and make space for Him to 'dwell' with you.

# People



At the time of writing the Bulletin, we understand that Paul, our hard working Bulletin Editor, has just been allowed home from Hospital to continue his recovery, which is great news! Usual service resumed from next week! 😊

We continue to remember those of our friends who are poorly or grieving the loss of a loved one. Both Bill and Paul were on the same ward in Southmead Hospital. Bill is still there. We hope that he makes a speedy recovery.

The funeral arrangements for Daisy and Josie are as follows:

The funeral service for Daisy is at the hall on Monday, 1st December 2025 @ 1pm. Following the service, there will be a reception in the Bradbury Hall. Please refer to last week's Bulletin for full details from the family and continue to remember Kay, Steve and their respective families.

The funeral service for Josie will take place at Haycombe Crematorium (Bath) on Tuesday 9th December at 1pm.

A note from Doris, who has been and remains unwell –

*"Dear friends,*

*I write on behalf of Geoff & myself. "THANK YOU" for all the thoughts, messages, Birthday greetings, and heartfelt wishes you have all shown to us over the past weeks.*

*Moreso for the prayers of everyone. God has blessed us, and you all have encouraged us throughout.*

*Love & prayers,*

*Doris Pearce & Geoff"*

## Flowers

We thank Morag and Linda, and Gerry, for the flowers at the front of the hall today.

## Youth

This term in youth we have been given “homework”, something to get us thinking during the week.

One Sunday in October, our *homework* was to write an encouraging letter to ourselves from God. Sophia completed this task, and her letter is a really great reminder for all of us, at any age:

*Dear beloved,*

*I see you, I hear you and I cherish you. Life can be challenging but remember that you are never alone. Trust in your strength and embrace your journey. Every step that you take is a part of a beautiful plan. Keep your heart open to love, kindness, and the wonders around you.*

*With all my love,*

*God*

## Christmas Presents to buy

Chris Rose has once again been busy and created some Christmas decorations which he is selling in aid of the Building Fund – they will be available to buy after the meeting, so why not take a look. Thank you, Chris!

## Christmas Carolling Rota

Now that the Band has finalised their different groups we are able to make the collectors’ rotas available – if you are able to help, please add your names to the list on the noticeboard. Thank you.

## Christmas Cards

In order to help us 'Care for Creation', we will have the opportunity again this year to send a message to everyone via an 'electronic card'. We would encourage you to make the most of this so that we use less paper and card. For those who still want to send a physical card, however, there will be a post box available from Sunday 30th November to Sunday 14th December – after this date you will have to hand out the cards yourself! Please make sure all cards are clearly addressed with the full name of the person you want to receive it. If you want to use this service then a donation will be expected – all proceeds to go to the building fund, thank you. P.S. In order to 'Care for Creation' you will only receive an 'electronic card' from Colin and Nicola this year – why not follow their example?!

## Christmas Reception starts this week

A reminder that we open our doors in the run up to Christmas starting this Tuesday 25th November to Christmas Eve (10am – 12 noon) (Tuesday-Friday) for donations to our Be A Star appeal.

During the Christmas period, many people want to donate to our Christmas Appeal so from Tuesday 25th November until Christmas Eve - 'If you are able to help, please put your name on the rota on the noticeboard. If you want to know more, please ask Nicola.

## Christmas Nostalgia

Christmas is always a great time to "look back". If you fancy going back to some of our previous Advent readings online mentioned on the front page, you can find the links below, but remember the dates won't be correct!.

**2021:**

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxcjTZIDdOAY\\_SEFIFaJnvDB6ldzAvgZ&si=YKAPyOWEWR\\_tyQR2](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxcjTZIDdOAY_SEFIFaJnvDB6ldzAvgZ&si=YKAPyOWEWR_tyQR2)

**2022:**

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxcjTZIDdOAed8oKudDL991mGiD\\_qNCE&si=Fkw7EKx1ORqG4Cm1](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxxcjTZIDdOAed8oKudDL991mGiD_qNCE&si=Fkw7EKx1ORqG4Cm1)

And remember, if you need your weekly fix of carol playing, you can always head to our website and listen to the band directly, or find them on Spotify, Apple Music, or Amazon Music.

**Spotify link:**

[https://open.spotify.com/album/3aJBu9hGWk69XHau6Wgeur?si=cv-YUcsiSNuJFq\\_JxcrjFA](https://open.spotify.com/album/3aJBu9hGWk69XHau6Wgeur?si=cv-YUcsiSNuJFq_JxcrjFA)

A red poster with white text and a white silhouette of the Nativity scene at the bottom left. The poster lists Christmas events for 2022. The title 'Christmas '25' is in a large, elegant script font. Below it, 'with Staple Hill Salvation Army' is in a bold, sans-serif font. The events are listed in bold, sans-serif font, with specific times and descriptions. The background features faint white stars and a large white circle.

**Christmas '25**  
**with Staple Hill Salvation Army**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
10am - All Age Worship  
4pm - Messy Church

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
7pm - Light up a Life Concert

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December**  
10am - Family Carol Service

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
10am - All Age Worship

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**  
10am - All Age Worship  
5pm - Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**  
5pm - Carols in the Square

**Christmas Day**  
11am - Christmas Morning Worship

**Love Came Down**

Broad Street | Staple Hill | BS16 5LN  
The Salvation Army is a Christian Church & Registered Charity No. 214779

# The Week Ahead

## TODAY Sunday 23rd November:

- 10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Alan & Carol Young (Divisional headquarters)*
- 11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church & Youth
- 3:30pm Prayer walk in Yate with Beth Gweshe
- 6pm Youth Fellowship at Colin & Nicola's

## Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November:

- 8pm CAMEO Craft club

## Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November:

- 10am – 2pm Open Doors including Employment Plus and Light lunch at 12.30pm
- 10am-11am Fitness Club
- 11am-12noon Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) *at the hall*
- From 6:30pm LAST YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice
- 8pm Senior Band Practice

## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November:

- 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 27<sup>th</sup> November:

- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 11:15am Extra Slice Group *at the hall*
- 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 28<sup>th</sup> November:

- 7:30am-12noon Slimming World Groups
- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 2pm Cleaning Hall
- 5:30pm – 6:30m Band supporting Downend Christmas Lights Switch-on

## Next Weekend

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November:

10am-4:30pm Christmas On The Hill  
10am Café, Family crafts & table sale  
10:30am-4:30 Bands playing outside

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November:

10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*  
*"Love came down: Love reaches out"*  
*Colossians 1: 15-20*  
11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church & Youth  
4pm – 6pm Messy Church



## Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas on the Hill
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent Messy Church
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Family Carol Service
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Toy Service Toy Sorting in afternoon
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Corps Carol Service
Christmas Eve	Carols In The Square
Christmas Day	Worship at 11am