

SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Local ...  
Lively ...  
Loving

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## A shoot from the stump of Jesse - [Isaiah 11v1-10](#)

No matter how many Christmases we have celebrated, there is always something fresh for us to discover as we move through the advent season. This week, I came across a reference to Christmas tradition that I had never heard about before – although there will be many people, I am sure, for whom this particular tradition is as familiar to them as having a turkey dinner on the big day. I'm referring to the tradition of creating a Jesse tree.

Jesse was the father of the King David of the Old Testament who is often considered as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. The idea behind the Jesse tree is to link together the context of the people and events within the Old Testament with the glorious news of the birth of Christ in the New Testament. On each day of Advent, a story is read from the Bible about the people and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. As the stories are shared, a decoration gets placed on a tree to symbolise that story. Whereas our advent readings tend to concentrate on the Christmas story itself, the Jesse tree brings together the whole biblical context of the Christ-child, providing a profound, historical linkage between the old and new Testaments; demonstrating how it all made sense. Probably a bit late to do make a Jesse tree of your own this year, but worth considering next year, don't you think?

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<b>Corps Officers:</b>	Majors Colin & Nicola Hylton-Jones	Tel: 0117 9565232
<b>Hall Address:</b>	21 Broad Street, Staple Hill BS16 5LN	Tel: 0117 9569733
<b>More Information:</b>	<a href="http://www.staplehillsa.uk">www.staplehillsa.uk</a>	/ <a href="mailto:contactstaplehill@gmail.com">contactstaplehill@gmail.com</a>
<b>Prayer Fellowship:</b>	<a href="mailto:staplehillprayers@gmail.com">staplehillprayers@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Bulletin:</b>	<a href="mailto:staplehillbulletin@gmail.com">staplehillbulletin@gmail.com</a>	
<b>YouTube:</b>	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/c/TheSalvationArmyStapleHill">www.youtube.com/c/TheSalvationArmyStapleHill</a>	

## People

We continue to remember those of our friends who are poorly or grieving the loss of a loved one. At the time of writing, Bill is on Elgar Ward at Southmead Hospital, but is making progress and may be moved in the coming week - please check before visiting. The funeral arrangements for Josie are as follows:

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

Following Andrew's bike accident at the end of last week, he is now home and making progress.

Chris and friends (also known as Elf's) have been making even more Christmas novelties to raise funds. They'll be on sale over the next couple of weeks, so please support.

## Christmas Cards

Please don't forget that next Sunday will be the last 'collection' from the corps Christmas post box – so if you are sending actual cards to those within our fellowship, then please make sure they are all very clearly addressed with both first name and surname and in the box over the next week. All proceeds to go to the building fund, thank you

For those using the electronic card – please see the link within the bulletin email or have a chat with Mark Dickens.

# Christmas Eve

Carol's Round the Tree on Christmas Eve has become a 'go to' family event for many people within our community. Plans are well in advance (mainly in my head) but can you help? We need the following:

- Stewards
- Presentation / Prop Assistants
- Help with the visual aid - it needs 'bracing' and hinging'!
- Angel \*
- Mary \*
- Jospheh \*
- Shepherd \*
- Wise person \*

[\* need to be under 5ft 3inches tall!]

If this is you, then please speak to Colin

## Welcoming Cadets to Staple Hill

Each year cadets undertake a Mission Placement week as part of their training to become Salvation Army officers, where they spend a week at a corps observing the day-to-day activity. Next year we will be welcoming two cadets to Staple Hill for their Mission Placement from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March, their names are Megan & Simon Moore and we look forward to welcoming them.

## Reflecting on the first weekend of Advent

Last weekend was a very busy start to advent. After the band supported the Downend Switch-on on Friday night, on Saturday we enjoyed an incredibly busy Christmas on the Hill, with hundreds of visitors into the hall and many more listening to the band outside. It was great to see so many young families sitting down and whilst enjoying crafts and refreshments having conversations with our helpers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success. This was followed closely by Christmas Messy Church on the Sunday where we saw a record number of families attending – over 120 people! There were so many we ran out of glasses and some people had to drink their squash out of mugs! It was great to see so many share in worship and listen to the Christmas Story – again thank you to everyone who made this happen. As December progresses, there are so many opportunities to share the Christmas message and we continue to pray that it will change people's lives. At the time of writing we are looking forward to the Light up a Life Concert which is a sell-out – another large number of people and another great opportunity!

## Safety

As we continue through this season of Advent, we anticipate a high volume of people using our premises for both Church and community events. Please familiar yourselves with the evacuation procedures for our building, along with keeping walkways and exits clear.

Thank you.

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> December

10am	Family Carol Service
11:30am-12:15pm	Children's Church & Youth
12noon	Frontline Carols <i>at Deerhurst and Kift Lodge</i>

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

11am-12noon	Frontline Carols <i>at Page Park Bowling Club</i>
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## Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December:

10am – 2pm	Open Doors including Employment Plus and Light lunch at 12.30pm
10am-11am	Fitness Club
1pm	Josie Keen's funeral <i>at Haycombe Crem., Bath</i>

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December:

9:30am-11am	Tots on the Hill Christmas Party <i>(and last one of 2025)</i>
7:30pm	Songsters <i>at Badminton Gardens</i>

## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December:

7:45am	Frontline Carols <i>at Neil's workplace</i>
10am-12noon	Open Doors
11:15am	Thursday Church Carol Service
12:30pm	Lunch Club Christmas Dinner
7pm-8pm	Young Peoples Band & Singing Co. <i>at Park View</i>



## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December:

7:30am-12noon	Slimming World Groups
10am-12noon	Open Doors
2pm	Cleaning Hall

*As it is now Advent, please check with your leaders regarding your Extra Slice Group*

## Next Weekend

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December:

10am-1pm Carolling *at Tesco, Yate*  
10am-2pm Carolling *at Sainsbury's, Emersons Green*

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:

10am Toy Service – *time to wear your Christmas Jumpers!*  
'Love came down'  
[Luke 1:26-33](#)  
11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church & Youth  
12noon Frontline Carols *at Coopers Court & Jenner Court*  
1pm-4pm Toy Sorting – *anyone welcome to help!*

*Last day for the Christmas Card Post Box*

## Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	6:30pm Carolling at Tesco's, Yate
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	6:30pm Carolling at The Mall
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Carolling at Sainsbury's
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	5pm Corps Carol Service 7pm Youth Fellowship
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6:30pm Carolling at Tesco's
Christmas Eve	5pm Carols in the Square
Christmas Day	Worship at 11am