

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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

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## **What does this year hold for us?**

The New Year brings with it new opportunities and new challenges. We can thank God for all He has done for us and with us in the last 12 months, but now is the time to look forward to all He has in store for us this year. We don't know what that will be, but it is sure to be exciting and unexpected.

As we start a new year, we put our faith in God to guide us, help us, support us and challenge us to greater things. As we start this year, we must re-dedicate ourselves to His service, clear our hearts of all that has been holding us back, open ourselves to the way God will lead us forward during the days, weeks and months to come. We don't yet know what paths those will be, who we will meet, what we will be called to do – but God knows and has promised to be with us along this journey throughout this coming year. So, prepare yourself for even greater things!

*The days I cannot see have all been planned for me;*

*His way is best you see; I'm in His hands*

[The Song Book of The Salvation Army, No. 848]

*Paul Heath*

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## People

We were sorry to learn of two bereavements just prior to Christmas, for which the funerals have now been arranged. These are:

- Bill Milsom - whose funeral will be on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 11.15am at Westerleigh Crematorium. Please continue to remember Freda, Elaine and Mark in your prayers.
- Alan Chillcott (Ann Gerrish's father) - whose funeral is been planned for Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm at Westerleigh Crematorium. Please remember Ann and her family in your prayers.

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people who have lost loved ones, so please support our friends at this time.

As of writing, we are aware that Brian U has been in hospital during the Christmas period - please uphold both Brian and Pat in prayer, along with those in our fellowship who are poorly or living with long-term health conditions.

This weekend Naomi is progressing her application for officership through a weekend organised by the Candidates Unit. Please continue to pray for Naomi as she explores God's her calling on her life.

## Building Fund

Our building fund total now stands at **£18,000**. This will leave just **£15,518.00** to raise, which I'm sure we will achieve during 2026.

*Gary Matthews*

# What a Christmas cracker!

What an amazing time it has been leading up to Christmas. The general public again have been so generous with their donations as you will see with the totals below.

Christmas reception: **£5791.66**

Carolling: **£10,233.83**

The individual collecting totals for the carolling can be found display on the notice board.

Thank you to everyone who manned the reception, played and collected during the carolling sessions, and not forgetting those who counted and banked all the income in my absence.

*Gary Matthews*

## Thank You

Colin and Nicola would like to say thank you again for everyone who played a part in our ministry this Christmas – for all the cooks, packers, sorters, movers, players, singers, counters, relationship builders, collectors, lifters, actors, tidiers, decorators, administrators, servers, teachers, pray-ers, communicators, organisers, bakers, leaders, helpers, readers, listeners, conversationalists, welcomers, hosts, technicians, visitors, dressers, supporters – it takes an ‘Army’ and every part is important, so thank you! We continue to pray for the hundreds of people that we connected with during this time as we move into 2026 and all it has in store.

# The Week Ahead

## TODAY – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January:

10am All Age Worship  
*No children's church this week*

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January:

9:30am-2:30pm Employment Plus  
10am – 2pm Open Doors *inc. homemade soup at 12.30pm*  
10am-11am Fitness Club  
11am-12noon Extra Slice Group (leader: Kelvin) *at the hall*  
From 6:30pm YP Band Practice and Singing Company Practice  
8pm Senior Band Practice

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January:

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 8<sup>th</sup> January:

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 9<sup>th</sup> January:

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

# Next Weekend

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January:** *Covenant Sunday*  
10am All Age Worship  
*‘Break Ground, Bring Hope’*  
11:30am-12:15pm Children’s Church and Youth

# Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday Church
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Coffee Morning
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	Unity Sunday Pulse Youth Event at Staple Hill
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Mission Council Meeting
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Growing Young Leaders
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Messy Church
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	CAMEO
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Morning worship led by Paul Heath