

SUNDAY 24th May 2026



Staple Hill Bulletin



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

Let's Live in harmony



WHILST I tend to be a 'home bird' and happy to stay at home rather than travelling (we're a dying breed), one of the television programmes that we enjoy watching as a family is 'Race Across the World'.

If you have not seen the programme, five teams of two are tasked with travelling to an undisclosed destination via eight checkpoints. At each checkpoint they are given the location of the next checkpoint. This is done on a limited budget, without phones and without using flights.

Over the different series, we have seen races from Greenwich to Singapore, across South America, Canada, Asia and the current series from Italy to Mongolia.

These different 'races' have enabled us to travel to countries with amazing natural scenery along with historical buildings and culture. Sometimes I feel that I might like to travel to these countries! However, whilst the programme is titled 'Race Across the World', it could equally be titled 'Races Across the World', as throughout the 'race' the different teams have to rely on the generosity and kindness of different 'races' to help them, to feed them, to give them somewhere to stay and in the most recent episode that I watched the commentator said of one 'race' that 'strangers are welcomed with food and shelter.'

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And whilst a 'home-bird' that is my experience of the different 'races' that I live alongside, I am made welcome. As a church we sing this song:

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony;

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony;

Different face, different race, he made us one;

Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.

However, there seems to be a growing tendency for people to be 'cross' with 'races' that are not like ours both locally, nationally and globally. Rather than harmony, there is 'crossness' which manifests itself in hatred, violence and war, where the value of some lives are viewed as less than others.

In Matthew 25 Jesus says:

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?" ⁴⁰ The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

My hope locally, national and globally is that we will live in harmony.

Major Colin

[Thought for the Month in the June 2026 edition of **downendvoice**]

People

Please continue to remember Ivan Danford's family as they prepare for Ivan's funeral on Thursday, 28th May @ 11.30am at Westerleigh Crematorium

For those of you who attend Lunch Club and Open Doors, you will be sad to learn that Roger's wife, Rita, has recently died - Rita and Roger also use to attend concerts together and sit on the front row. Rita's funeral is on Tuesday, 26th May: 1.30pm at St Augustine's Church; 3.00pm at Westerleigh Crematorium (note: different to the time printed in last week's bulletin); and 4pm at the Hunter's Rest, Clutton Hill, Clutton, Bristol BS39 5QL.

Peter Jackson has come out of hospital and is now at home, and Lydia was also discharged on Friday. During the week we had a message from members of our on-line congregation, Bev and Kev from Canberra. Kev had a hip replacement on Tuesday. All went well and he is now home.

Please continue to remember our friends at this time, along with those of our fellowship who are poorly, living with long-term health conditions and/or coping with difficult personal situations.

Congratulations to Morag who will be celebrating her 90th birthday this week.

Building Project

You will be pleased to learn that we have now paid off the debt for our recent renovation work. This has been a remarkable achievement and our thanks go to all those who have helped achieve this. As part of our worship on Sunday, 7th June, we will spend some time giving thanks to some of those people who have enabled this to happen.

Flowers

Linda Powell has provided the flowers at the front of the hall today in memory of her sister, Jenny. Thank you.

Minutes of Share the Good News meeting

An open meeting was held on Monday 11th May – thank you to all those who took the time to participate in this. The minutes are available on the noticeboard and if you are unable to access these and would like to know what happened, please email Deb or Nicola for a copy of them. The content of this meeting was discussed in the Mission Council held last Monday 18th and goals were confirmed (see later in this bulletin).

Annual Stats

We have now come to the end of the annual stats period for this year so thank you to everyone who has counted. For those who haven't given me all their numbers yet, please can you let me have them as soon as possible. Many thanks

Deb

Collection for the Candidate's Fund

We are pleased to announce that the Candidate Sunday Collection amounted to **£600**. Thank you.

Minutes of Mission Council Meeting

Minutes are available on the noticeboard (please email Deb or Nicola if you would like a copy) but here is a summary of the main points:

- Calendar – the rest of 2026 including Christmas was discussed and planning began for 2027 – the main dates for both Christmas 2026 and the whole of 2027 will be confirmed in the next Mission Council on the 29th June.
- Plans are continuing to appoint an employee (aiming for September this year). The role will be to coordinate the community programme.
- Various leadership appointments were discussed.
- During the Autumn we will have the opportunity to remind ourselves of 'Frontline' again with a new series.
- Planning for Page Park Praise.
- How we can make Church2U more effective.
- Armed Forces Day in Page Park 20th June – we will book a stall for outreach to our local community.
- Better use of Social Media including Advent 2026.

Page Park Praise – next Sunday 31st at 3pm

Next week begins our monthly Praise Park Praise events – these are amazing opportunities for outreach, where several hundred people listen to what we have to say and join in with the activities. And there is something for everyone to help with:

- Loading and unloading,
- Set up and pack down,
- Children’s craft activities,
- Facepainting,
- Singing,
- Tech team ,
- Mingling and interacting



So please let Myriam know if you can help.

Or if you can get there early, please help with carrying chairs and putting them away afterwards. Thank you.

Armed Forces Day Saturday 20th June in Page Park

Another opportunity for outreach – we will have a stall in the park the whole day with an opportunity for people to stop, have conversations, give out leaflets, do activities – please let Myriam know if you can help.

The Week Ahead

TODAY – Sunday 24th May: **PENTECOST**

10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*
11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church and Youth



Tuesday 26th May:

10am – 2pm *No Employment Plus*
Open Doors *inc. homemade soup at 12.30pm*
1:30pm onwards Rita Duddridge's funeral – *see earlier for details*
No Fitness Club
No musical rehearsals

Wednesday 27th May:

No Tots on the Hill

Thursday 28th May:

10am-12noon Open Doors
11:15am-12noon Extra Slice Group *at the hall*
11:30am Ivan Danford's funeral *at Westerleigh Crematorium*
12:30pm Lunch Club - *booking essential*
8pm Open Band Practice with ISB BM Jonathan Evans
- *Please sign up via Churchsuite*  

Friday 29th May:

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

As it is half term holidays this week, please check with your Extra Slice leader about your group

The Week Ahead [continued]

Sunday 31st May:

10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*
11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church and Youth
3pm Page Park Praise



Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Sunday 7 th June	Messy Church
Thursday 11 th June	Thursday Church
Saturday 13 th – Sunday 14 th June	Band weekend
Saturday 20 th June	Coffee Morning
Sunday 21 st June	Fathers' Day Pulse Youth Event at Staple Hill
Sunday 28 th June	Page Park Praise
Sunday 11 th July	Coffee Morning