

SUNDAY 31st May 2026



Local ...
Lively ...
Loving

Prepare for the Harvest

Last Sunday, Major Colin made reference during his sermon to the Jewish 'Festival of Weeks' that is celebrated at the same time as we celebrate Pentecost within the Christian church. This Jewish festival (which we learnt is known as 'Shavuot') serves a dual purpose – not only does it commemorate the giving of the 10 commandments to Moses (as Colin said), but it also is a celebration of the spring harvest.

Colin's reference made me think of another Jewish festival: the 'Festival of Tents', or 'Sukkot' if you want to give it its proper name. This festival will be celebrated at the end of September and helps the Jewish people remember the 40 years that the Israelites spent wondering in the desert, but also incorporates the celebration of the autumnal harvest.

This afternoon, we will be setting up our 'tents' in Page Park at the commencement of our summer outreach programme. In a way, this is also connected to a harvest festival for we hope and pray that our outreach will be effective and will result in a harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God.



"Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

[John 4:35](#)

Paul Heath

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People

Our prayer network was busy this week with a number of people associated with the corps being poorly. Our prayers are with Derek's dad, Marie's brother and Dan's mum who have all been admitted to hospital. Emily also had a stay in hospital last weekend but is now home, as are Peter, Lydia and Kev. Please pray for our friends as they continue their recovery, along with those in our fellowship who have recently been bereaved, or who are poorly, living with long-term health conditions and/or coping with difficult personal situations.

If you would like to know more about our Prayer Network, then speak to either, Colin, Nicola or Rita, or pick up a leaflet. Prayer is an important part of our corps life, and we believe that the power of prayer can help those in need.

Andy and Hilary Sims will be celebrating their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary this week - on the 4th June. We send our love and congratulations to you both.

And also celebrating this week is Linda James, who will be 70 on Tuesday.

Food Hygiene



Last week we had our biennial (every two years) food hygiene inspection. You will be pleased to know that we retained our 5-star rating. Congratulations to our hospitality teams for all they do to feed us safely!

Flowers

Thank you, Kelvin, for providing the flowers at the front of the hall this week. They are, of course, to celebrate Linda's birthday on the 2nd June.

Armed Forces Day Saturday 20th June in Page Park

This is 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.

Employment Plus

Employment Plus has been part of our Tuesday programme now for a couple of years and their work is expanding, so they are relocating some of their practitioners. As a result, Thierry is now based in our building every Tuesday 9am – 2pm and is happy to work with anyone who is unemployed – you just need to make an appointment (see details below). It has been a pleasure to have Tyrone as part of our Tuesday team, so we would like to say thank you, Tyrone and we will miss you!

Contact details:

thierry.baulard@salvationarmy.org.uk and 07341637336.

The Week Ahead

TODAY – Sunday 31st May:

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



Tuesday 2nd June:

No 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 Songster Practice

Wednesday 3rd June:

- 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 4th June:

- 10am-12noon Open Doors
- 11:15am-12noon Extra Slice Group *at the hall*
- 12:30pm Lunch Club - *booking essential*
- 8pm Extra Senior Band Practice
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Colin & Nicola) *at Qtrs*
- 8pm-9pm Extra Slice Group (leader: Bethany) *at Bev & Jon's*
- 8:15pm-9:15pm Extra Slice Group (leaders: Ian & Rachel) *online*

Friday 5th June:

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

The Week Ahead [continued]

Sunday 7th June:

10am All Age Worship *led by Majors Colin & Nicola*
11:30am-12:15pm Children's Church and Youth
4pm-6pm Messy Church



Dates for the Diary

Here are some other dates that are coming up soon:

Thursday 11 th June	Thursday Church
Saturday 13 th – Sunday 14 th June	Band weekend
Saturday 20 th June	Coffee Morning Armed Forces Day in Page Park
Sunday 21 st June	Fathers' Day Pulse Youth Event - <i>cancelled</i>
Sunday 28 th June	Page Park Praise
Sunday 11 th July	Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 th July	Pulse Youth Event – Staple Hill