SUNDAY 11th October 2026

Staple Hill Bulletin

THE SALVATION ARMY

Local ... Lively ... Loving

How to be expert members of a congregation

"Take it personally"

Part 3 of 4 excepts from an article by the late Commissioner Wesley Harris.

In meetings we need to be ready to take things personally. When the preacher gives it out hot and strong it is all too easy to think that this is just the strong medicine that Brother So-and-So or Sister Somebody-Else needs when, given half a chance, the Holy Spirit would apply the message to our own hearts.

Most of us come up to a Sunday with business or domestic matters weighing on our minds. During the meeting we should try to put these things on the "back burner", relax in mind and body and open our hearts to the awesome reality of God's presence. If we do that it is likely that our problems will shrink and we will be able to see them for what they are – manageable.

When we attend meetings it is important to clear our minds of any ill-will toward anybody. Hugh Redwood said "Don't nurse a grievance, teach it to walk". If we find some people hard to take we should put them at the top of our prayer list. That will be good for them and us.

To be continued next week!

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People

Please continue to remember and pray for those in our fellowship who have recently been bereaved. In particular, we uphold Brian and his family as they prepared for Pat's funeral, which is to take place on:

- Monday 9th November 2026. There will be a service of celebration at the hall at 10.30am, followed by a committal at 12noon at Mangotsfield Cemetery.

We also remember Pat B and her family as they prepare for Jim's funeral on Tuesday, 20th October at 1.30pm at Westerleigh Crematorium, along with the family of Janice Bailey whose funeral is on Thursday, 15th October at 11.30am in Mangotsfield Cemetery chapel.

Helen, after a previous cancellation, has now had surgery and is at home recuperating. Please continue to remember Helen and those in our fellowship who are poorly, living with long-term health conditions or experiencing difficulties. It is a time of year when there is a lot of illness, so please look after yourselves.

We also remember Naomi who will be leading worship at Risca today (Sunday, 11th). We are sure that the Lord will bless her ministry.

We [Colin and Nicola] are on leave from Monday 12th returning on Monday 19th and we are grateful to the team who will be overseeing the programme, and to Steve and Myriam who will be leading worship next Sunday.

Congratulations to Beryl and Spence celebrating 57 years of marriage *today*, and to Peter and Elaine who celebrate their 55th (emerald) wedding anniversary on the 16th.

Heating

As of writing, the heating has not returned from its summer vacation. We have had an engineer out, but it is not looking good. Please be aware that the hall may be a little chilly until we resolve this issue.

Harvest 2026

This year's Harvest giving has amounted to **£3,442.**

Thank you for supporting the work of our local corps mission and the innovation fund for the division. *Gary, Corps Treasurer*

Acorns

I [Colin] have in mind a project that needs lots of acorns. If you're out for a walk and you see some, could you pick them up for me? Thanks.

Flowers

The flowers today have been given by Dan Baker to remember his Nan's 107th birthday.

Great News!

We are delighted to announce that after our recent interviews, we have appointed Jess Dickens to our new role of Community Mission Coordinator and she will start as soon as all the necessary checks are completed. We are looking forward to everything she will bring to our Mission each week. Congratulations Jess!

Christmas Events & Activities

Attached to this bulletin email is a copy of the Christmas Calendar and you can pick up a printed copy. All the dates are also in the 'My Events' section of the ChurchSuite app. Christmas is always a busy time, so please make sure you have all the dates in your diary/calendar so you don't miss out!

Here's a few dates to highlight:

Christmas Reception	Tuesday–Friday from 24th Nov. until Christmas Eve
Downend Light Switch on	Friday 27th Nov. 5.30pm – 6.30pm
Christmas on the Hill	Saturday 28th Nov. 10am – 2pm (and Christmas tree in Square 4pm)
Christmas Messy Church	Sunday 29th 4pm – 6pm
Band Concert	Friday 7.30pm – 9.30pm at St Mary's Church in Yate
YP rehearsal for Carol Service	Saturday 5th Dec. 9.30am – 12.30pm
Family Carol Service	Sunday 6th Dec. 10am
Songsters at Badminton Gardens	Tuesday 8th De.c 7.30pm
Tots on the Hill Christmas Party	Wednesday 9th Dec. 9.30 – 11am
Thursday Church Carols	Thursday 10th Dec. 11.15am
Lunch Club Christmas dinner	Thursday 10th Dec. 12.30pm
YP Music Sections in Park View	Thursday 10th Dec. 7pm
Gift Service	Sunday 13th Dec. 10am

Gift Sorting	Sunday 13th Dec – Thursday 17th Dec.
Carol Service	Sunday 20th Dec. 5pm – 6.30pm
Carols in the Square	Christmas Eve 5pm – 6pm
Christmas Day Activities	10.30am – 3.15pm
Christmas Day Worship	11am – 12pm

Main Carolling dates:

- Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th Dec. 10am – 2pm (Supermarkets)
- Tues 10th, Tues 15th, Thurs 17th Dec. 6pm – 8pm (Mall)

Frontline Carols:

- Grab a few friends to play or sing carols on your frontline (in your street, workplace, etc). Let us know if you need help with leaflets to give out or extra players etc.

Dates for the Diary

Please check your ChurchSuite app (My events) for an up-to-date calendar of all events including these:

Special Worship Events:

Remembrance Sunday	Sunday 8th Nov.
Major Amanda Lee Leads worship	Sunday 22nd Nov. 10am

Monthly & Irregular Meetings:

Coffee Morning	Saturdays 24th Oct., 14th Nov.
Mission Council	Monday 9th Nov.
Messy Church	Sundays 8th Nov.
CAMEO Craft Groups	Mondays 26th Oct., 30th Nov.
Thursday Church	Thursday 22nd Oct., 12th Nov.
Pastoral Care Council	Monday 26th Oct. 7pm
Church2U	Sunday 22nd Nov. 12pm

Divisional Events:

Divisional Children's Praise & Pizza Party	Friday 6th Nov. 5pm-7pm
Divisional YP Leaders Day	Saturday 14th Nov. 10am – 4pm
Divisional Youth Praise Night	Sunday 22nd Nov. 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Other Activities and Events:

Children's Holiday Club	Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th Oct. 9.30am – 12pm (Primary School children)
Light Party	Friday 30th Oct. 6.30pm – 8.30pm (Years 5-9)

Christmas Events:

Loads of things!	From week commencing 23rd November and continuing throughout December see earlier in this bulletin

The Week Ahead

TODAY – Sunday 11th October:

Young People's Prize Giving Celebration

10am	All Age Worship *led Majors Colin & Nicola*
11:30am-12:15pm	Children's Church & Youth activities
12:30pm-3:30pm	Young People's Pizza Party

Tuesday 13th October:

9am – 2pm	Employment Plus *with Thierry*
10am – 2pm	Open Doors *inc. homemade soup at 12.30pm*
10am	Fitness Club
10am – 1pm	Energy Help Desk
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 14th October:

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 15th October:

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

Friday 16th October:

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

Next Weekend

Sunday 18th October:

10am	All Age Worship *led Myriam & Steve Selfe*
11:30am-12:15pm	Children's Church & Youth activities
12:15pm	Holiday Club Planning Meeting