



The Bethel Mag

The Church
that Meets
at
Bethel

Issue 74
Autumn 2024

The magazine from the church
in the community,
for the community.

NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

Hi all - it's here! My favourite time of year - AUTUMN - everything is Autumnal, and I love it! Since our last Mag, we've been pretty busy here at Bethel - there was the wonderful Summer Fête, two Believer's Baptisms, Father's Day, our Loved Ones Remembrance Service, Table Top Sale, three weddings and 17 Christenings. That's not counting all the Little Acorns Toddler sessions, the daily (not weekends) Little Lambs Pre-School Centre sessions, our One Way Children's Club and their week-long Summer Club, our Cornerstone luncheon club meals and Summer Buffet, then there's BIBO - (Breathe In Breathe Out) Monday Club for those with any form of breathing problems, the monthly Cancer Peer Support Group, the weekly Monday Knit and Natter, Friday afternoons Feel Good Friday, Friday Night IceBreakers for our teenagers, plus of course, our two shops - Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent. Busy little Chapel is Bethel! In addition, we are soon starting CRAFTERNOON Friday afternoons where people come and well, do crafts The clue is in the title.

For many years, we've called ourselves the Church in the Community for the Community, and I'd like to think that we live up to that name. We all live this life, no matter what our backgrounds, our age, wealth or lack of it, health, abilities etc etc etc..... What matters is that we are all living life, whatever that looks like.

Jesus' said, "I have come that they might have life, and life in all it's fullness." (John 10:10) How can we possibly help people to live life in all it's fullness? Well, we're looking at a series in the Sunday morning and evening services about becoming an even better Antioch Church - this is accepting all people, no matter their situations, loving and caring, welcoming and helping people to belong, encouraging telling our story of faith with others. It's all about embracing people's differences in life and introducing them, through Jesus, to the God who is love.

I'm loving watching the Paralympic Games at the moment, and it's humbling and inspiring. One of the adverts that introduces the games says, "Thank you for letting us be ourselves." While this is lovely, it also fills me with shame, that for so many years, society, especially Churches, have done a brilliant job of NOT letting people be themselves, of barring people from Church, of rejecting people because of who they are. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life." (John 3:16) WHOSOEVER - no sign of any rejection or barring there.

An Antioch Church welcomes in the name of Jesus. At the front of Bethel (left hand noticeboard) there's a beautiful phrase - "This Church opens wide it's doors and in the name of Jesus bids you welcome." That's been there longer than I've been at Bethel (over 60 years.) What a brilliant motto, strapline, vision, promise some time ago we adapted/Bethelized a previously existing letter to people "out there" in the community. It's Bethel's opening wide it's doors YOU are welcome.

Here it is:

Welcome to Bethel Chapel

We extend a special welcome to those of you who are single, married, separated, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, trans, non-binary, filthy rich, comfortably off, penniless, clear-headed or confused. We welcome those who struggle physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and those who are 'just fine'.

We extend a particular welcome to the crying babies, rowdy toddlers, noisy children, teenagers, adults or those in the twilight years. You are welcome if you have dozens of children or none, if you wish you had some and don't, or if you sometimes wish you didn't have children and do. You are welcome if you can chat to everyone you meet, or if you would prefer not to talk to anyone at all.

You are welcome if you are rake thin or if you really could do with losing a few pounds or stones. You are welcome if you are from Wollescote, Lye, Stourbridge, Dudley area or much further afield (even Birmingham!). We don't mind where you live or come from – you are welcome.

You are welcome here if you can sing like Pavarotti or Beyoncé, or if you can't hold a note in a bucket. You are welcome if you are 'just browsing,' just woken up or just out of prison. You are welcome if you come here every week, or every month or once a year or if you've never been here before and if you don't come again. You are welcome if you are in a Church somewhere every Sunday or if you only ever darken a Church's doorstep for 'hatch, match and despatch'. We don't mind why you are here – you are welcome.

We extend a warm welcome to those of you who are definitely over 60 but you just haven't grown up yet and are not planning to any time soon, or if you're a teenager growing up too fast. We welcome gym-mad Moms, football-crazy Dads and those who wouldn't set foot inside a gym or at a football match unless on pain of death.

We welcome tree huggers, hard as nails types, latte-sippers, vegans and junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or who are still addicted to something or other. We welcome you if you are sky high happy or in the pits low, or mostly somewhere in between. If you've lost all your money on the horses, you are still welcome here.

You are welcome if you believe in fairies and dragons or if you only believe what you can see. You are welcome if you can't read or have a few degrees and plenty of letters after your name, you are welcome if you belong to MENSA or if you can't spell. You are welcome if you work too hard, don't work, can't work, can't hear, can't see, can't walk or if you have only come because your Nan is visiting and wants to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked or pierced or both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could really do with a prayer right now or if you're sick of organised religion because it's been rammed down your throat. We welcome you if you are "spiritual" but not "religious" and if you're curious whether it's possible to be both at once. You are welcome if you've planned to be here or got off the No 9 bus at the wrong stop and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters and believers.

Oh, and we welcome you too - whoever you are, however you are, just as you are.

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The Bethel Mag is also available on our website

Summer Fête



Another Summer, another opportunity to open our doors wide and welcome in the local and wider community and to raise some much-needed funds for our Church.

So, on the 8th June, Bethel hosted a Summer Fête out on the lawn with various stalls, games, food and drink. Although scaled

down, no less work went into making it a fun day for people of all ages with preparations starting long before the day. Shelley, Jo and the team put in hours and hours of work over many weeks; sorting, cleaning, wrapping, shopping and organising to make sure the day would be as close to perfect as it could be.

The day itself started, in true Bethel style, with an impressive downpour, so it was all hands on deck trying to put up gazebos to save our volunteers from getting soaked and the stalls being washed away!!

But as always, God answered our prayers, and the heavy rain lasted only a short time, and the rest of the day was dry and bright which helped to make the fete the success it was.

We welcomed lots of people through the gates to take advantage of the variety of books, puzzles and toys, the good quality clothes and bric-a





-brac, the beautiful plants and tasty cake stalls all at bargain prices. Kids and grown-ups alike had fun playing on the many games and tombola's and raffles, winning some great prizes and just having a good time. And the day was rounded off with some delicious ham or cheese cobs,

succulent strawberries with cream or melted chocolate and a refreshing drink.

Once again, the outpouring of support was overwhelming and we were able to raise a truly amazing £5,528.76 but more importantly, we had the opportunity to show people God's kingdom and the work we do for Him. Long days, late nights and a lot of stress but it is always worth it in the end.

Finally, to everyone involved in the fundraising events, no matter how big or small, Thank You for all you do!! The Summer Fête is done so there's just one thing to say...

Christmas Fayre, here we come!!
(btw, that's Saturday 23rd December!)



One Way Summer Holiday Club

Clare Robson - One Way Club Leader

Back by popular demand from lots of enthusiastic children, Bethel's Summer Holiday Club began at the beginning of August.

And this year's theme - **CARNIVAL!**

The week-long club, organised by Clare and a group of volunteers, was enjoyed by 34 children aged between 3 and 13 and both the adults and the children seemed to have the time of their lives!

The children had the opportunity to learn all about carnivals from around the world, listen to amazing music and try some wonderful food and thanks to some special guests, they learned an exciting and energetic dance routine, got to meet some beautiful animals and, on the last day, play traditional carnival games and have fun on the bouncy castle at their very own Carnival!

They created amazing carnival floats, Mardi Gras masks and pieces of carnival art and enjoyed watching the movie "Rio" while delighting in some lovely sweet treats.



The joy and laughter could be felt and heard through the whole building as old friends reunited and new friendships were made. A truly wonderful week was had by all and none of the children wanted it to end!!





Kelci has been volunteering at Bethel Treasures for a while, and has recently been given the Careers and Work-Related Learning Award from her school for the brilliant work she has been doing and how fantastically well she has developed since she has been working at the shop.



Well done Kelci for all your hard work and for doing such a smashing job, and

well done to the staff at BTHS for supporting and encouraging her, and helping her to become the lovely confident young lady she is.



Thank you Freida



After three years of faithful service to Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent, volunteering at both at the shop and at the storage unit, Freida has decided to take a step back and give up her roles. Many, many thanks and God bless you Freida for all you have done.

Volunteering Opportunity

However, this will leave us in real need for new and extra help to take on some of the work Freida did. If you have any free time at all, even an hour of two a week or a month, and are willing to use that to serve the Lord through Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent, please let us know ASAP. They are a friendly bunch there and will 'show you the ropes' if retail is a new area to you.

Lye Community Carnival

People can enjoy a fun day out when the popular [Lye Carnival](#) returns to the High Street in September. Lye residents and business owners have been working with Dudley Council to organise the event, which takes place on Sunday 15th September from 11am to 4pm. Activities will include a funfair, market stalls and a main stage outside Christ Church, with performances from local acts. There will be walkabout acts, mascots, facepainting and lots of other entertainment for people of all ages. Black Country Radio will also be broadcasting from the event during the day.

The carnival committee, said:

“We are a new group who have come together to plan Lye carnival, working with residents and business owners to celebrate the diverse multicultural heritage in Lye. We hope you will join us for what is set to be a great day out.”

The High Street will be closed from the junction of Chapel Street to Jackson Street and a diversion will be in place to accommodate this from 6am to 6pm.

The event is funded by UK Government, West Midlands Combined Authority and Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund.



Come and see us on the Bethel stall, we will be offering a Kindness Stones activity for all ages. #LyeCarnival2024

**A MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL & CELEBRATION
BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

Lye CARNIVAL

**MUSIC • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FUNFAIR
FOOD & MARKET STALLS • BOUNCY CASTLE
CRAFTS & GAMES**

FREE ENTRY

**SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER
LYE HIGH ST | 11AM - 4PM
PARKING OFF THE BYPASS**

Funded by UK Government | West Midlands Combined Authority | Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund

Bethel Memories

By Val Woodhouse

In 1890 an advertisement appeared in a national newspaper stating that Colonel Michael Spratt was desirous to undertake religious work amongst a poor community. He received a reply from Joseph Heathcock of Hayes House, Perrins Lane inviting him to work with the poor of Lye. A few weeks later Colonel Spratt arrived at Stourbridge Junction station ready to undertake his mission. A wealthy, religious man, he leased and whitewashed an old warehouse on the corner of Talbot Street and Skeldings Lane, from where he loaned blankets to the poor in winter and gave food to the sick; eventually building the Gospel Hall, the front porch of which still stands in Hill Street. It was



to Colonel Spratt's mission that the founder members of Bethel first went after they became disillusioned with the Salvation Army. He opened a library, held mid-week services, began a Bible class and crucially, provided a fire and lamplight in the evenings as well as Bibles so that those who wished to, could go to improve their reading skills and study what their faith meant to them. Although as we know



the Bethel founders eventually had to disassociate themselves from his mission and its doctrines, Colonels Spratt's faithful desire to serve Jesus helped the young Amos, Harry, Alfred and Charles read, comprehend and accomplish the commission God had given them. Colonel Spratt died on the 7th September 1908 and although sadly for him things did not work out as he had hoped, he was always held in high esteem by the men and women of Bethel as a Godly man. It was only the doctrines that had influenced his teaching which Bethelites could not accept. In the history of the world his death was not earth shattering but for the people of Lye he was a man of significance and substance who made a difference.

Since the very earliest days of Bethel the Harvest Festival has been celebrated. A wonderfully colourful affirmation of God's creativeness and provision for the world He crafted and loves. Traditionally, the Harvest celebration at Bethel also included a festive public tea open to everyone for a small cost, until late in the 20th century this tea was followed by an auction of the home grown produce displayed which was often a very jolly affair. The magazine of September 1931 thanks everyone for all of their contributions to making Harvest Festival day a resounding success. Whilst the magazine of 1938 reports that the afternoon service was a 'trifle lengthy' philosophically adding that it was only once a year so why worry and the good news was that collection was the best in recent years. In October 1987 the Harvest services combined with a flower festival to make a beautiful offering of visual worship. Harvest celebrations that year included a Barn Dance where people took their partners to 'strip the willow' and 'do si do into the night'.

In autumn 1931 the Young People's Class decided to run a 'September Special'

dedicating each Sunday afternoon class of that month to music and song. Whilst popular amongst the young, staff were upset by accusations that they had lowered the tone of the class. Robustly refuting this in the Bethel News, the teachers asserted that religion, not to be confused with faith, was something which changed and adapted needing to be relevant in a modern world full of competing attractions. Quite right too, Jesus led the way in relevance, choosing to be where the people were, whether at the pool of Siloam, the market place or the Synagogue.

Originally comprised of two single sex classes the Young People's Class became mixed in 1909 when the dividing wall in the vestry was demolished creating one big room. Led by Charles Dickens the class flourished among local young people, membership peaking in 1932 with 150 on the roll and a regular attendance of over 100 each week. The outbreak of hostilities in 1939 had an unsettling effect on the class with many going off to join the armed forces. Whilst Home Guard and fire watching duties took their toll on staff and young members on the home front. The class continued to meet throughout the war albeit with a sadly depleted membership. Happily, post 1939 membership increased and the class continued to be popular for several decades after hostilities ceased.

Bethel has never been immune from the suffering of war as the memorial in chapel testifies. Bethelites always served God by keeping services open and supporting the community. In World War Two for example rooms were made available to the firewatchers, and in 1942 at the request of Worcester County Council the hut was opened at lunchtime to accommodate local school children eating their free school dinners.

Sadly, it seems that the world cannot get by without a war happening somewhere within it. Occasionally, it can be argued that a war is just but nonetheless the consequences always result in suffering for a vast proportion of people and the transit of many members of communities. For some of those who flee or evacuate there is a sort of haven offered in the form of a reception centre where shelter and food will be forthcoming. In 1950's Britain citizens were living in the shadow of the Cold War. Civil Defence documents and notes in the Bethel archives from the early 1950's indicate that Bethel would have been designated a reception centre should the call to evacuate industrialised or strategic areas have materialised. As well the evacuee's physical welfare there are notes on their spiritual care, I cannot help but wonder would modern day government civil defence lectures include that as a necessary consideration. Practical instructions include quantities for tea and jam sandwiches for 100 people plus, how to make an emergency oven at short notice including digging a trench and lining it with bricks then cooking the food in a metal dustbin laid horizontally in the trench, something for the once famous Bethel working parties maybe?

The seemingly countless refugee crises in God's world evoke so many different emotions and opinions, sometimes it is hard to know what to think. Perhaps it might be helpful to meditate upon the words of a man who as a young child had to flee his homeland along with his family to escape persecution. The child was Jesus who, when adult addressed dealing with a stranger to one's land *'Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters you did for me'* Matthew 25 v 40. Amen



Table Top & Car Boot Sales

People from the local area popped into Bethel Chapel on 13th July to have a look at the amazing deals at our Tabletop Sale.

We are so lucky here at Bethel to be blessed by so many generous people and almost daily we receive donations of such beautiful items, so many that our storage unit is filled to overflowing. To keep on top of the huge selection of items gifted to us, a dedicated group of volunteers sorted and displayed a variety of items from cups and plates, cut glass and kitchenware, ornaments, pictures, clothes and toys. There was something for everyone and all at bargain prices!!



A couple of weeks after the event, some of the remaining items were taken to a car boot sale in Himley. With a very early 6.30am start and in the

blistering sunshine, Lynda and Steve worked tirelessly to sell on as much as possible. A few weeks after that, we had a stall at the Bark in the Park event at Wollescote Park, selling some of the crafting items we still have in stock, which although not as blessed with the weather as the car boot sale, was still a lovely occasion to meet with a different group of people and have a chat.

All the events were incredibly successful in meeting new people and introducing them to Bethel, raising money for Church and making room for the next lot of donations to come!!



If you missed out on any of these sales, you can always find lots of bargains at our charity Shop in Quarry Bank High Street: Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent – our Little Shop of Hope.

Crafternoon



At our Craft Sale earlier on this year, we chatted to quite a few people who hadn't been able to find a convenient craft group since Covid. We are therefore going to start a new crafting get together from September.

To start with there will be a couple per month, and we'll see how that goes whether we need to increase or decrease the frequency from there, to suit everyone.

So the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, from September onwards will be our Crafternoon get togethers from 4 - 6.30pm. There will be coffee/tea and biscuits, and if people want to bring in any homemade goodies, that will be gratefully received too! Bring your own crafts in, come and see what people are crafting, have a go at something different we may have on offer that week, or just come for the chat! All sorts of crafts will be welcome, such as paper crafts, needle crafts, painting and colouring crafts - we don't have the facilities to set up a potters wheel just yet, but bring along anything easily portable and share your love of crafting with others.

(unfortunately there won't be a session on 27th Sept, as church is already in use)

Broken to Make me Whole Again

By Jane Hart

It will be no surprise to some of you that my health is not great at the moment.

I have struggled for the last 18 months, mainly with my breathing, but also with fatigue that leaves me unable to do much at all.

All this time, even though I have really struggled, I have managed to keep on top of it, with love and support from family and some amazing friends.

Then, out of the blue, something happened that firstly I was not expecting and secondly completely tipped me over the edge.

I had no idea how to handle the situation. I let it be all I could think about, making myself very anxious and agitated.

I just wanted to run away and hide, hoping it would go away.

I didn't, and I dealt with it, which lead me to realise the following:

God could see how I was battling on and needed to let go. I truly believe that he put me in the situation I was in to break my stubbornness. Only when I finally broke could I be built back up by God.

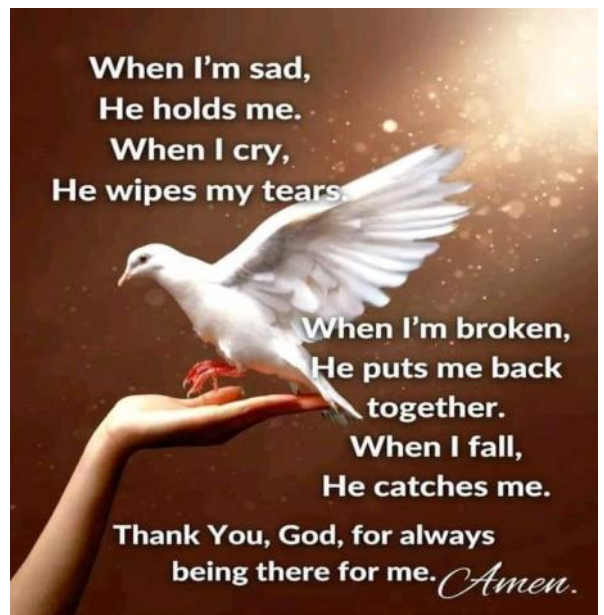
Don't hold onto the 'tat'. We can't do it alone.

Just give it up, leave it at the foot of the cross. Then you can concentrate on you and your relationship with Jesus.

Life isn't all about being at the top of the mountain every day. Sometimes to really appreciate God's love, we have to experience the valleys in life too.

Thank you for the lesson 'Papa'.

Amen



Bethel Chapel

Remembrance Sunday Service

**Sunday 10th
November 2024**

6.00pm

**Everyone welcome
*We will remember them***

Rooftop bees at shopping centre

THERE'S been a buzz around Stourbridge Ryemarket with the arrival of rooftop bees.

The two beehives have been sat empty in the space next to the 1st floor of the Ryemarket car park since June, but now the bees have been moved into their new homes.

The colonies are being cared for by beekeeper couple Caz and Dean Barratt who also own Eco Maniax Zero Waste & Refill Shop in the Ryemarket.

And the honey could make its way into the shop next year.

Caz said: "We undertook a beekeeping course earlier in the year and have support and advice on hand in caring for our bees."

Dean said: "We've always had an interest in bees and with the backing of Ryemarket Centre manager Aaron Powell, we were able to utilise this secure space and add hives and planters for the bees.



Dean Barratt of Eco Maniax Zero Waste & Refill Shop, and hives

"At the moment we are concentrating in keeping the colonies strong enough to overwinter but maybe next year if

there's surplus honey then it will be available in the shop as we currently sell other local honeys."

[Stourbridge News article about the latest venture from Caz & Dean Barratt from Eco Maniax in the Ryemarket, Stourbridge \(Joyce & Roy's son & daughter in law\)](#)

[For those reading online, check out the bees arrival video by clicking here](#)

Summer Specials

The Cornerstone 'bids' had a special Afternoon Tea during the Summer break. We always try to break up the long summer holidays with a special or two as it is such a long time to go without seeing friends and catching up. This year's event however was particularly special because it was provided by donations in memory of Christine Billingham, who we lost at the beginning of this year. Some of her family came along to join us, which was so lovely. Lynda and the team worked hard to produce a beautiful buffet, which everyone enjoyed, and it was good to see everyone after a few week's away from Cornerstone.



At the other end of the spectrum, the Pathbreakers and Pathfinders on Sunday mornings enjoyed a Summer of different activities. As it is an

Olympic year, we had a bit of a sports theme running throughout. On a couple of the weeks we held a 2 part 'treasure hunt', where clues were given to different areas inside and outside the building, where they then had to find 3 pictures of sports featured in the Olympics - first three back were awarded gold, silver and bronze status! Lots of running around and frantically searching for the prize ensued! It was lovely that everyone got at least one 'medal' of some description.



water polo



handball



volleyball

If you were in church on the morning of 1st September, you will no doubt have heard the enjoyment the kids had from having an end of Summer/back to school wet and wild session - a marvellous way to let off steam before the new school year started. Everyone was thoroughly soaked between all the water games played. They then came in to get dried off as best as we could (still not sure everyone got the right clothes back, but it will probably work itself out eventually!) before coming back in to have some fruit and yoghurt before the service finished. I think its safe to say everyone enjoyed themselves!

What a Summer!



Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Last year was the first time that we at Bethel had acted as a local collection point for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. This meant that we opened church at specified times during their 'collection week' to receive the shoebox gifts from local individuals, schools, companies and associations and then the nearly 100 boxes we collected were transported by

Steve Hawker and John Weston to the National Collection Centre in Coventry. From there, they were checked and began their journey to places all over the world where children are in such need - not only war-torn countries, but areas of abject poverty, disease and high child mortality rates.

So, this year we are doing it all again. Our collection dates are shown on the page opposite - we are open at various times from Thursday 14th - Sunday 17th November in readiness to take them over to Coventry on Monday 18th November.

We already have stocks of the 'how to pack a shoebox' information leaflets which also have the gender and age range labels to go on the boxes. If you need copies, just pop in or let us know. This year we also have a small stock of pre-printed shoeboxes (to save you finding a shoebox and then having to wrap it up!) Again, if you need one please call in for one. If you register online, you can also track which country your box has been delivered to.

Items that can be packed into a shoebox include dolls, cuddly toys, a flat football with pump, toy cars, skipping ropes, toothbrushes, socks, combs, hairbrushes, items of stationery, picture books, colouring books, solar calculators, sunglasses, wind up torches, etc. You can also include a card/photo and small personal message to the child that will receive it in your box.

There are some items that should NOT be included, these include: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids, used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items (some of these are to do with individual countries' customs procedures, so that the boxes are not stopped or delayed from entering the countries)

We would love to see you if you wish to drop off any shoebox presents to us in November, a warm welcome awaits.

More info can be found at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child



SEND A

GIFT-FILLED SHOEBOX

IN JESUS' NAME



Bethel Chapel & Little Lambs Hill Street, Wollescote, DY9 8TL

Local Collection Point - Times



Thursday 14th November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Friday 15th November, 11.30am – 1.30pm

Saturday 16th November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

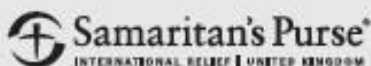
And before morning service on Sunday 17th November at 10.30am



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.



Visit samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ to learn more about how God can use a gift-filled shoebox given in Jesus' Name to transform a child, their family, and their community.



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
Franklin Graham, President | 020 8559 1180 | samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ
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UK Charity No. 1001349, Scotland SC009251.
Company No. 2462257.

Little Acorns - Summer of Fun

By Sami Nordhoff, Little Acorns group leader

This Summer we enjoyed playing in Little Lambs rooms and garden, lots of our children will move onto Lambs as they grow older so we find doing sessions there helps the transitions for our littles. We love the big open garden, playing football, with the parachutes and on the bikes in the lovely summer sun.



The mud kitchen was stocked with fruits, pine cones and stones to make refreshing teas and yummy cookies!

We also had a blast in the beautiful sensory gardens at Stevens Park, exploring the different plants and flowers and walking on our stilts. The children loved a change of environment, playing in a different area with their friends and singing songs in the fresh air together.



Throughout all our sessions children engaged in activities to aid in all areas of development, especially their personal, social and emotional development as they played and explored together. The main aim of our summer sessions is to keep children interacting in a safe environment with children their own age.

A big thank you to everyone who came and made our summer sessions so much fun! We can't wait to see everyone for a lovely Autumn term!

Little Acorns Toddler Group is on Thursday mornings between 9.30 - 11.15am. Cost is £3 per session, including refreshments, and there is no need to book, just come along and enjoy!

An 'Ordinary Miracle'

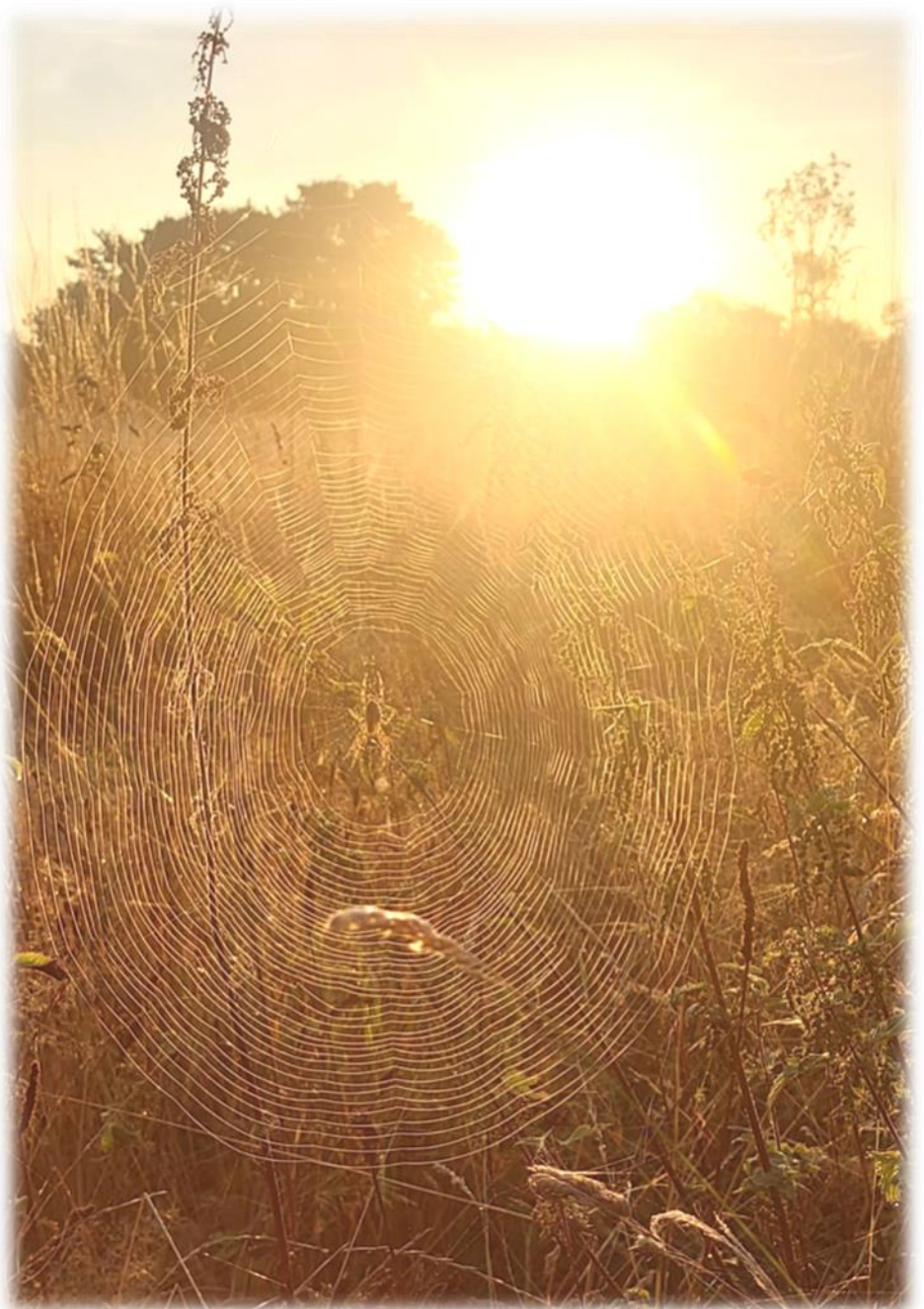
The following was shared on our Bethel Family WhatsApp group recently by Kathryn O'Grady, it was written by a friend of hers from choir, Fiona Walley, and it was so lovely we asked permission to share it with you all - thanks Fiona for your lovely words and picture.

"Good morning, everyone! I haven't done this for a very long time, but a photograph I took on my early morning walk, today, inspired my train of thought this morning and so I decided to share it with you all.

The incredible intricacies of a spider's Web and the sun rising into the sky behind it immediately took me to a beautiful film/book with so many messages for us all, particularly the power of friendship. I watched 'Charlotte's Web' recently and found it as moving as I always do. I love the oxymoron, which is the title of my favourite song in this film.... 'An ordinary miracle'.

Each spider spinning and creating their webs, although ordinary in the sense that there's lots of them, is indeed a miracle of creation.

Hoping you all have a lovely day and can appreciate and enjoy an 'ordinary miracle' today."



My Life Story - Beverley Southall

I was born on Christmas day in 1975. My life has not been easy, I have never been loved, as I was growing up all I knew was abuse, physically, mentally and sexually.

When I was 6 years old I was a victim of sexual abuse by my step-dad. I use to go to my father's house every weekend but something did not feel right, so when I went back on the Saturday, I realised I was being abused there too, but I did not say anything as it was happening at home.

When I was 10 yrs old I was cooking and cleaning while the abuse was happening. I was protecting my siblings as I did not want them to suffer in the way I did. It was bad enough watching my mother being beaten black and blue by my drunken step dad most nights, I even stepped in front of her to stop him hitting her, so I had it too.

By the time I was 13 I tried suicide. Then at 16 I lost my mum to pancreatic cancer, and that is when I decided I wanted to be baptised and be close to God so I could have him hold me and keep me safe. I was then baptised 33 yrs ago in March just two weeks before my mum died.

I tried suicide again at 16 & 18. The abuse finally ended when I was thrown out of my family home at midnight, as my step dad wanted me to sleep with him and his mates. I refused and told him I was not a sex slave.

I was at Chawn Hill when I was baptised, then I got thrown out as my siblings were smoking in there. I swore I would never step into another church again, until I kept having pictures of a little chapel, that is when I realised it was Bethel. I spoke to Jill and Di and told them what I had been through. I suffer with a lot of health issues, plus mild learning difficulties so it takes me a while to work out what is right and wrong. But I keep on fighting as I have survived all this.

If it was not for Jill and Di I do not think I would have had the strength to go to the police, and come out the other side. I still have very bad days but working through them. I would not be here if not for them as their support and being at Bethel is what has got me to where I am.

I believe in Jesus and I put my trust in Him. My faith gets me through the darkest days and there is light at the end of the tunnel. Each day is a battle but with faith I can overcome anything.

Bethel Chapel

Hill Street, Wollescote,
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☎ 01384 892137

✉ admin@bethelchapel.org.uk

🌐 www.bethelchapel.net

The church in the community, for the community



Sundays

Morning Worship 10.30am

incl. PathBreakers (11-14) & PathFinders (under 10's)
& Icebreakers (over 15's)

Evening Worship 6.00pm

One Way Club

For primary school aged children

Monthly on a Saturday, 10.00am - 1.00pm

Check website for dates - £3.00 per session



Games, Crafts & Activities

Cancer Peer Support Group

Monthly on last Tuesday of each month

5.30 - 7.00pm



Knit & Natter

From the experienced to the novice,
everyone welcome

Monday 9.30 - 11.30am



Breathe In, Breathe Out

Support group for people living with breathing
difficulties of all kinds, e.g. COPD, Asthma, etc

Monday 1.00 - 3.00pm

B.I.B.O.

Bethel is also available for
Weddings, Christenings and Funerals
For further information please see our
website or contact the church office.

Little Lambs Pre-School Centre



High quality 55 place private pre-school
education within a happy, secure and
stimulating early years environment for
children aged 2½ to 5 years.

Further details and Prospectus available on our
website

Cornerstone

Luncheon Club for Senior Citizens
Wednesday 12.30pm

Free local minibus transport provided if needed

4 course meal
£5.00



Little Acorns Parents/Carers & Toddlers

Play and activities for toddlers and their carers

Thursday 9.30 - 11.15am

£3.00 per session
(incl. refreshments)



Feel Good Friday

Social get together for anyone who wants to have a
cuppa, a chat and play cards, dominoes, etc. in a
warm environment

Friday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Friday Night Icebreakers

For 11 - 18 year olds, get together at the end of the
week, play music, games, cook, etc

Friday 7.00 - 9.00pm



**Harvest
at Bethel**



Sunday 6th October

10.30am

**Harvest Family
Celebration**

**(including Cake Bake
and Harvest Refreshments)**

6.00pm

**Evening Harvest
Celebration**

**(including Cake Bake
and Harvest Refreshments)**

**If you think you've blown God's plan for
your life, rest in this - you, my beautiful
friend, are not that powerful!**