

The Bethel Mag

The Church
that Meets at
Bethel

The magazine from the church
in the community
for the community

N° 75
Winter
2024



NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH



We have fitted in quite a bit since the Autumn Bethel Mag was published at the beginning of September. The last 4 months of the year always seem to be one of the busiest, so many things to pack in before we can welcome in the new year.

We started back at Little Lambs and all our outreach groups after the Summer break, joined in with Lye Community Carnival, had Maggie O'Hara in for a smashing evening of songs, said a very heartfelt 'welcome home for a bit' to Trevor & Jean Faulkes, visiting from Australia for the first time since they moved there in 2011. We held our lovely Harvest celebrations and the kids had a wonderful Night Light Party at the end of October. We humbly remembered those who had fought in wars on Remembrance Sunday and have been collecting shoebox presents ready for them to go out around the world to children who need them. And now we are going at full speed towards our magnificent Christmas Fayre and then straight into Christmas services and celebrations to round off our year - phew!!

Its great to be busy, in the thick of it, getting involved. Although it's exhausting sometimes, it is also extremely rewarding. But we should never forget the reason why we are doing all these things. In all we do, we want to be the light that shines onto Jesus. He is the reason we keep going when we are on our knees, why we go that extra mile to help someone, why we try to keep our shop and our fayres and our groups affordable for everyone. He is why we come together on a Sunday or in the week, rather than staying in bed or going shopping or doing a million other things we could be doing. As the old saying goes - He's the Reason for the Season - this and every other season.

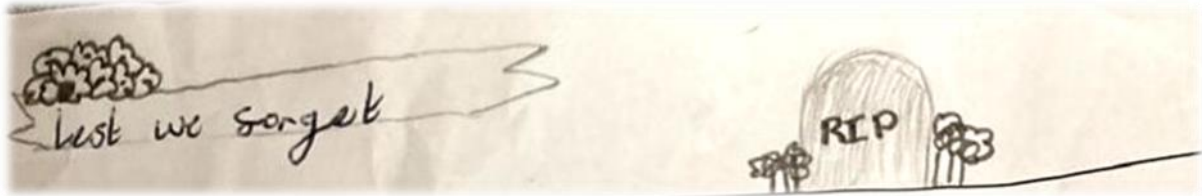
So, as you get ready for the celebrations that are to come as we approach Christmas, when you are in the middle of the whirlwind of planning, and organising, and buying, and making sure that everything goes to plan . . . Just take a few moments to step back, breathe, and remember why we are doing all this. A baby, born in a room shared with animals, about to become a refugee, but who is Lord of all Creation.



Peaceful Christmas Greetings, from the church that meets at Bethel

Lest We Forget

By Isabella, aged 11



On the 11th of November we take a minute to pause
To represent the lives that were killed for our cause

They saved our lives but killed their own

So remember this day like no other

The animals and soldiers stuck together like glue and paper

The knives represented their lives

The citizens in the city cried

While the soldiers died

Remember these who surrendered in the war for our cause

The red blood said all the dread

Young lungs died for our freedom and laws

Brave people are now in graves

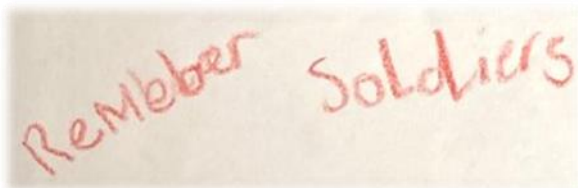
The purple poppy stands for the animals

The black poppy stands for the different races

The white poppy stands for peace

The red poppy stands for the soldiers

The people in the war saw the light flash before their eyes



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The Bethel Mag is also available on our website

Maggie O'Hara Music Evening



On Friday 27th September, we were treated to an evening of music from the 50s, 60s and 70s by popular local singer Maggie O'Hara.

A capacity crowd for the event enjoyed songs to sing (and sometimes dance) along to, with some crowd-pleasing memories of the songs of decades gone by. We were also well fed by Lynda with one of her legendary buffets! No one went home hungry, or without food to feed them for the next week. Many thanks to Jane & Paul Hart and Lynda for all they did to organise the event.

If you missed out last time, you have another chance, this time Christmas with Maggie O'Hara on Friday 6th December from 6.45pm. If you would like a seat, let us know as soon as possible as the limited places go quickly. £5 per person which will include light festive refreshments. Bring your own drinks if you wish.



Lye Community Carnival



It has been over 20 years since Lye last held its popular Carnival - that is until 15th September this year.

With a grant from the Commonwealth Legacy Fund, the people of Lye were asked what they would like to see happen, and a Carnival was top of the list.

So with only 12 weeks to arrange it all, the lovely local people from Dudley Healthy Communities asked for volunteers to form an organising group.

As Bethel was involved from the very early

days of Lye Carnival back in the 1920s, and we try to be the church in the community, Jane went along to the meetings to represent Bethel. Along with the Healthy Communities team, representatives from Christ Church, United Church, Lye Community Centre, Black Country Radio and local residents made up the small organising group, with back up from Dudley Communications Team.

With some restrictions as to what we could do, and mixed thoughts on how a Carnival in the current Lye might go down, Carnival Day soon arrived and although the weather did its best to put a dampener on things, the people of Lye came together and had a smashing day, with lots of entertainment, stalls and a small funfair. Christ Church opened up their building for refreshments, toilets and tours of the bell tower and Bethel had a Kindness Stones stall, where lots of people, young and old, decorated stones with kind messages to share with others in the locality.

It was a lovely day of community and networking. Now, we need to see if we can organise another one next year, putting into practice the lessons learned from this one but with our own local committee and raising our own funds!

Watch out for news of next year's event, it would be a shame not to continue after this good start.





Our Little Shop of Hope at Christmas

If you are out and about Christmas shopping and the hustle and bustle gets too much, how about dropping into Bethel Treasure Heaven Scent to experience an oasis of calm and some fantastic new and pre-loved bargains.

We are all doing our best to be more aware of the items we are buying and their impact on the environment and our world, so what better than to source some lovely



quality pre-owned items that will bring joy to those who receive them a second time around and will be good for the planet at the same time!

It is also a good place to stop off to find your special item of clothing for parties and get together over the festive period.

A warm welcome always awaits you from our lovely volunteers, go in and have a chat, they'll find just what you need!

Wishing all of our customers a very happy and blessed Christmas

*from everyone at
Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent xx*

**Be a good cause
Santa Claus.**

**Buy presents from
charity shops**

and help to:

- Raise money for a good cause
- Reuse, giving items a longer life
- Reduce landfill and waste
- Sustain retail jobs and volunteering opportunities
- Support a shop that is a community space with immense social value.

BETHEL TREASURES Heaven Scent

190-191 High Street, Quarry Bank, DY5 2AB

please call in any day they are open, you will be made most welcome

Tuesdays 10am - 2pm - Wednesdays & Fridays 11am - 3pm - Saturdays 10am - 1pm

Harvest 2024



Harvest time at Bethel is always special, and for the last few years we have held it over a 2 week period, with Harvest Celebrations on the first week in October and then a quieter, Harvest Home the second week.

This year again, the Pathfinders and Pathbreakers children went on an adventure to Wendy's allotment to see and experience growing and harvesting fruit and vegetables for themselves.

They walked together to the

allotment during morning service and had a lovely time digging, planting, picking apples, picking and shelling 'barbie beans' (they were pink!) exploring the area and generally having a lovely time together.

Many thanks to Clare, Jorja and Wendy for taking them over to the allotment to experience harvesting food for themselves.



Chri

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Christmas Fayre

TURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
12.00 NOON

Bethel Chapel
& Little Lambs
Mill Street, Wollescote



Night Light Party



On Thursday 31st October, a group of very excited youngsters attended the Night Light Party, organised by Clare, Jorja & Wendy.

This is the alternative we organise for our young people so they don't feel left out of not going 'Trick or Treating' which observes the dark influences in this world.

Our young people celebrate the light and love that Jesus brings.



4 hours of partying and they still didn't want to go home!

How times change!

This photo was taken at the 1960 Youth Club Christmas Party, in the old 'hut' - photo entitled 'a forfeit of spoon feeding'! Does anyone recognise any of the young people or leaders in the photo (is that you Ann?) Does anyone remember being there?



And here is another photo of a ladies get together, this one doesn't have the date on - does it spark off any memories for anyone?!



If you have any memories of parties at Bethel in times gone by, please share them with us for a future mag.

Millenium!

Who remembers the great New Year's Eve party of 1999 into 2000? Unbelievable that it is 25 years ago this year!

What a night that was - we all thought the Millenium Bug was going to get us and we would wake up on new year's day with no tech working, unable to communicate with anyone. In the end it didn't happen, but we all had a jolly good time partying like it was 1999 on NYE into Y2K!

Can anyone spot themselves, I can see a few very young looking people here having the best time (Sorry the photos aren't very clear, our Nokia 3310s didn't have digital cameras back then, we had to wait to get these developed!)



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My Life Story part 2 - Beverley Southall

I have turned my life around from darkness to light, I have been in the dark too long, and it was a battle for me.

Depression and PTSD are now at a stable stage, I would not have come this far without my Bethel family and friends. I pray every day. And the more I come to Bethel, the stronger my faith is. I have found love which I have never had before.

I struggle sometimes with the word of God but I manage the best I can. So when I am at home I do some bible study to see if it will help me more. I am a child of God. I did religious education at school and I struggled with it, but I think I do ok.

I have lived on my own for 12 years and I never thought I could do it as new things and places scare me. The first time I walked into Bethel was the week after my grandad's funeral. It's where I feel safe and it's where I can come and have some quiet time and I know nobody can hurt me anymore.

I never thought I would step into another church when I got kicked out of Chawn Hill, after I was baptised, until my grandad mentioned Bethel and I have never looked back, it was the best thing I ever did.



P.S. I would like to thank Jill and Di Hughes for all their support which has helped me more than words can say, and for the rest of my Bethel family and friends for making me part of Bethel.

In the light there is no darkness if I keep believing in Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Amen.

Skittles Evening

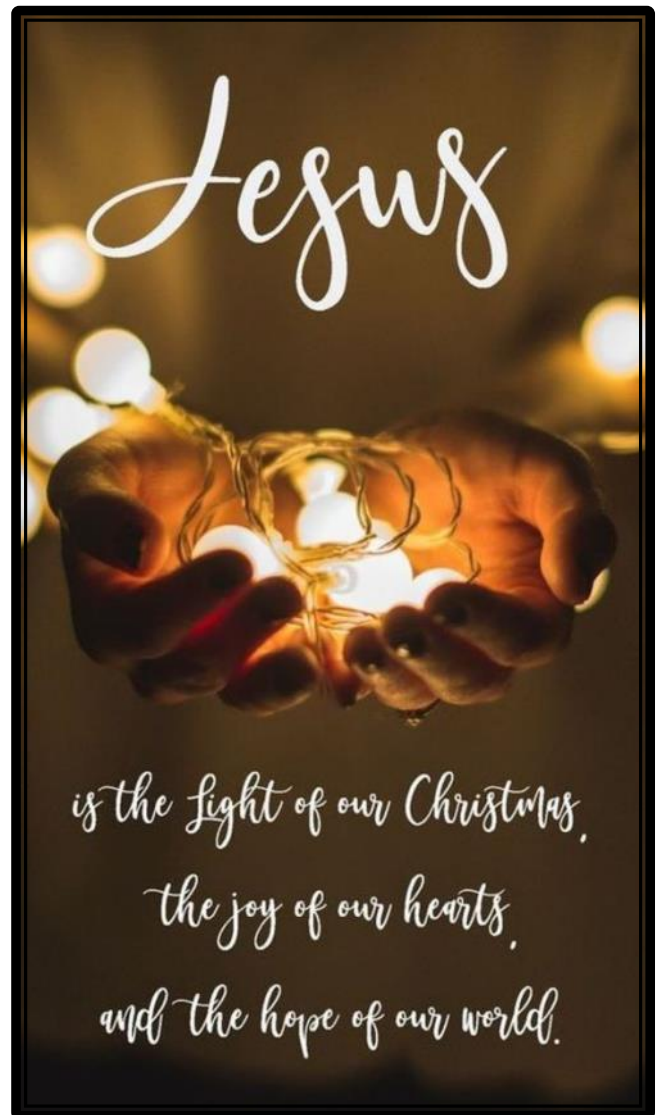


It's becoming a bit of a tradition for the first Friday in November to be Skittles Night!

A delightful crowd of people gathered together on 1st November to play Skittles in the church. The lovely sound of wooden bowls being sent down the wooden bowling alley to knock down the wooden skittles - a simple but enjoyable old fashioned experience.

Many thanks to Andy & Sarah and Clare R for organising everything.

Everyone seemed to be having a very good time, and many thanks to Jacqui D for making up the gorgeous cottage rolls for the refreshments, they were delicious!



Bethel Chapel

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✉ admin@bethelchapel.org.uk

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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



Crafternoon

2nd & 4th Friday of each month

Bring your own craft or have a go at a new one

Any time between 3.00 - 6.00pm



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



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 family 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

Bethel is also available for Weddings, Christenings and Funerals - please contact us for further details

Christmas at Bethel

At this special time, we invite you to join with us
at any of our Christmas Celebrations.

Sunday 1st December

10.30am - Advent Christmas Communion
6pm - Traditional Carol Service to remember loved ones

Sunday 8th December

10.30am - A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
6.00pm - Advent Christmas Communion

Friday 13th December

9.45am - Little Lambs Pre-School Centre Nativity Service
7.30pm - Choral Society - Christ is Born

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am - Church Nativity Service
6.00pm - Evening Worship

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th December

12.00noon - Carols with Santa on the lawn
11.30pm - Worship the New-born King



Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th December

10.00am - Christmas Morning Celebration (*streamed only*)

Services streamed at www.youtube.com/@BethelChapelLye/streams