

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July is our Church Anniversary. Two years ago we were celebrating Bethel's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, so this year we are 152 years old. Let's hope and pray that in 2022 we will be able to celebrate once again in the church. The decorating on the church side of the building is completed and there have also been improvements to the lighting. The hall is a work in progress but we are planning for the outside groups who use the hall to be able to return in September.

We have two weddings in July. We were delighted to welcome Clare and Jay on 4<sup>th</sup> July for their marriage ceremony which was postponed from 2020. On Saturday 31 July we will be welcoming Cathryn and Derek for their wedding.

As you know Rev Nigel Lindsay is leaving the UK to take up the leadership of a church in the Bahamas. He leaves at the end of August and is coming to Bethel on Sunday 1 August so we will have an opportunity to hear about his new role, to pray with him and to say farewell. We plan to have a service in the church that day and then our regular morning services will begin in September. Please do try to join us on 1 August to meet with Nigel. If anyone needs a lift on that day please contact Maggie (875711). Nigel has been a good friend to Bethel over many years and we will really miss him, as will all the other churches he has been part of.

Jenny Thompson has been in contact and looks forward to leading worship for us when we are open again.

Ron and Margaret Lambkin have now moved to a bungalow in Hull and they are settling in well. Ron will be returning to Sheppey from time to time and has said he will lead worship for us if possible. Margaret and Pete Hoad have moved to Thanet and have settled in well to their new home.

Stella Webb, who now lives at Barton Court Care Home, will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 19<sup>th</sup> July. We pray for her continued good health and wish her every happiness on her very special day.

**Island News**

You might have read in the local paper the Sheppey Community Development Forum have been busy planning for a Community Bus which will provide a mobile mini-supermarket together with help and advice from specialist groups. The mini- supermarket will supply fresh food where possible as well as the usual tins and packets which are normal for food banks. The double decker bus has been donated to us by Travelmasters who will also help with servicing and garaging. At the moment the bus is away being kitted out to make a shop on the lower deck and meeting rooms on the top deck.

The bus is seen as a route out of dependency, to encourage those who have been relying on the food banks, to independence. Those who want to use the service provided will pay a monthly subscription, thus restoring their self respect. The bus will be able to reach almost every point on the Island but the initial priority will be to reach those areas of Sheppey which are furthest from Sheerness. The plan is to start the service in September and gradually increase to cover all areas of Sheppey.

## **There are many alternatives to the computer for Sunday services:**

BBCRadio Kent at 8am on Sunday

Sheppey FM at 10am on Sunday

Of course Songs of Praise on BBC 1



### **Please pray for:**

- We give thanks for those who have been able to have surgery and pray for their recovery.
- We pray for those in our fellowship who have health problems, those who are waiting for the results of tests and for those who have surgery and treatment planned. We think too of those who are feeling lonely and isolated and pray that we will be able to support them as much as we possibly can.
- We pray for our young people as they start the summer holidays – for their safety. We are thankful for those who lead our young people at Bethel and pray that they will know the Lord's guidance for the future.
- We pray that at Bethel we will be able to make the correct decisions for the future re-opening of our church.
- We pray for Clare and Jay and Cathryn and Derek as they celebrate their marriages.
- We pray for Nigel as he prepares to leave the UK for pastures new. May the Lord bless him and guide him as he makes his final preparations. We pray too for the churches he is leaving in London, that they will be able to continue the work which Nigel started.
- We give thanks for the Sheppey Community Bus and pray that as it launches in September that all will go well and the necessary funding be found.
- We pray for our country, giving thanks for all those working so hard in the NHS, care homes and the other key workers. We think of those who have lost loved ones and pray that they will be comforted.
- We pray for those in authority in our country and the wider world, for correct decisions to be made for the future.

