

## **Bethel News May 2021**

**The decorating** of the church is finished and it looks excellent. We are hoping that the rest of the decorating will be finished soon.

Our young people continue to meet on Zoom for Brigade on Monday evenings and then on Tuesday evenings there is band on Zoom. The band evening is shared with members of the Salvation Army in Jersey – something we would never have experienced had it not been for Zoom becoming a part of our lives!

There is also a weekly quiz on Friday evenings on Zoom so if you do have access to the internet and would like to join the fun please ask. Recently, on alternate Sunday mornings there is an opportunity to come together for Church and Chat. Again, please ask for more details if you would like to join although details for that are on the front of the service sheets. Please ask if you have a computer and would like to try using Zoom – it's not that difficult and does open up many opportunities to see friends and have a chat.

We are very grateful to Jo Poynter who produces a weekly service for us which can be viewed at [:www.mbccs.co.uk](http://www.mbccs.co.uk) This is also printed and delivered each week, if you don't already receive a copy but would like one then please let Maggie know (875711) and we will add you to the list.

### **News from our friends:**

**Rev Nigel Lindsay** is moving on from the two churches he leads in East London, to become minister of churches in Grenada in the Caribbean. Needless to say that the churches in London are really sorry to see him leave. Please do pray for Nigel and those people in the London churches who have really enjoyed Nigel's ministry. I believe he will be moving on in September.

**Jenny Thompson** has been preaching at a few churches in the Maidstone Area. Let's hope that we will see her again at Bethel soon.

**Island News:** Churches Together in Sheppey have a monthly prayer meeting (on Zoom) on the first Wednesday in the month at 7pm. Please let Maggie know if you would like the details or have any particular prayer requests.

The **Community Warden** has contacted all the churches to remind us that she is available to help where necessary. Her name is Jackie Swan and her phone number is: 07811 271304. I know that she is happy to help with a variety of problems so please do give her a call if you need any help.

**The Food Bank** continues to work from Holy Trinity Church, Sheerness. The Food Bank has a collection box in Tesco and Morrisons if you would like to contribute if you are able to go shopping. There is an exciting new development which has come from the Sheppey Community Development Forum, which meets at Oasis Academy on a monthly basis. Plans are being made for a Community Bus to be converted into a mobile grocery shop and community hub with support and advice available to all. The plan is for the bus to be in operation in September, serving, at first, the eastern end of the Island. The Forum is led by Steve Chalke of Oasis and is made up of many Island folk who want to see the Island thrive and develop into even more of a caring community. The bus has been donated to us by Tim Lambkin of Travelmasters who has also offered to garage the bus and arrange servicing and maintenance. I (Maggie) attend these meetings so please ask if you would like to know more,

## 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

We have heard from **Nado**, our sponsored child in Togo. It's good to know that her project is still open, she talks about wearing masks, washing hands and using handgel. She says that all her family are doing well and hopes that all is well with her friends at Minster Bethel. She thanks us for all we have done for her and her family.



### Please pray for:

- We give thanks for the vaccine and are grateful that many of our Bethel folk are now fully vaccinated..
- 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 – for their safety and for the safety of those who teach them. 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.
- For Nado, the young girl we sponsor in Togo, that she will be successful at school, have good health and have faith.
- We pray for those who are coming to Bethel in July for their wedding ceremony and pray that the marriage services will be able to go ahead and that each couple will be blessed/
- 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. We think especially of those countries where the virus seems to be out of control and pray that they will receive the help and support they need.

