

**Sunday Services at 11am**

Sunday 4 December		Mrs M Mancktelow
Sunday 11 December	Gift Service, Memory Tree & Communion	Mrs M Mancktelow
Sunday 18 December		Girls' and Boys' Brigade
Sunday 25 December	No Service at Bethel	
Sunday 1 January	No Service at Bethel	
Sunday 8 January	Church Parade	Miss P Poynter
Sunday 15 January	Wednesday Fellowship will lead a short service which will be followed by the Church AGM	



**Christmas at Bethel:**

Sunday 18 December, the young people will lead our morning service and then at 6.30pm they will lead us in Carols by Candlelight.

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 1145 pm we will welcome Christmas Day with a service of Holy Communion.

The post-boxes will be available this year but please only put cards in for people who you know will be at the services on 18 December

As you will see from the list above there isn't a service at Bethel on Christmas Day or New Years Day. We are all welcome to join the folk at Minster Road Baptist Church where the service starts at 10am on Christmas Day and 1030am on New Year's Day. Please ask me (Maggie) if you would like a lift or company to Minster Road.

**Gift Service** on Sunday 11 December. This year we are supporting the Sheppey Support Bus with Christmas Gifts.

Bethel folk are always very generous and we know how hard this Christmas will be for many but if you would like to donate a gift please bring it to the service on 11 December. If you would like to wrap your gift then please label it male or female or boy or girl. With the children's presents please mark the age of the child.

At the gift service we will also dedicate the Memory Tree which is in the vestibule for you to add your memories to.

**Financial matters;** Many thanks to those who gave so generously at the Silver Tree Service. There is an opportunity to give regularly to the work at Bethel using weekly gift envelopes – please ask our Treasurer, Christine if you would like to know more. She will also be able to give you information about Gift Aid where we can claim 25% extra on donations from those who are UK tax payers. These are difficult times for all and we do appreciate any financial help you can give.

**Craft Club** meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30 – 3.30, on the first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month. Please contact Jane Freeman on 01795 875401 for more details. Other groups using the premises include::  
WI, History Society, Zumba, Dancerscise, The Geese project

### **News of Nigel:**

It was good to see Nigel via Zoom just recently – he had just been to the dentist to have a tooth taken out but he coped well! He has enjoyed a visit from his sister recently which must have been very encouraging for him – I always feel that life is quite lonely for him which is hard for someone like Nigel. The Congregational Federation are planning to visit in 2023 so if you would like to join them I'm sure you would be very welcome. Nigel's prayer requests are: More helpers with the Youth Group, there is also a need for more people on the Leadership Team and getting quotes for the necessary building work. Nigel's sponsored walk is now planned for 12 – 19 December. Nigel's latest news will be on the table in the vestibule.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday 17 December – Churches Together in Sheppey Carol Singing at the Clock Tower in Sheerness from 11am – 12noon

Brigade will be carol singing in the neighbourhood – please ask any of the Brigade leaders or Deacons to check arrangements.

Sunday 15 January – Church AGM after the morning service. For those who cannot be there for the 11am service the AGM should begin at 1130am



Please pray for:

For any of our fellowship who are unwell, or waiting for medical appointments.

For those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

For our young people and those who lead them.

For the various groups who meet at Bethel – may they benefit from the use of the building and see something of the love of God while they are with us.

For our Island and the work of the Food banks and the Support Bus.

For the work of Care4Christmas and other groups supporting those who need help.

For each church on Sheppey – may we all serve our communities at this Christmas Time..

For all the schools on our Island and the work they do to support the young people

For Nado, the young girl we support, via Compassion, in Togo.

For Marlon, the young man who we sponsored for many years.

For Nigel who continues to serve the church in Grenada. For his safety and continued good health in his challenging work.

For our new King, Charles III – may he know Your presence just as his mother did..

For our country, for wisdom for those in authority. For those who are struggling financially – may they find the necessary help and support.

For the world situation, especially those who are living with war and violence. We think especially of the people of Ukraine and Russia – that a peaceful solution may be found to the current crisis.

Lastly for ourselves, that we may continue to grow in faith and in knowledge of the Lord Jesus,

