

Fellowship Report

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH



2024

Roles within the church

Minister	Revd Bob Adams
Secretary	Sue Hope
Treasurer	Wendy Whistler
Youth and Families Worker	Marianne Holt (until August 24)
Deacons	Hazel Adamson Becky Dear Sam Holmár Marianne Holt Sue Hope Wendy Whistler
Designated Safeguarding Person	Becky Dear
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person	Dawn Mills
Worship	Wendy Snead
Pastoral Care	Bob Adams
Property	Wendy Whistler
First Aid	Charlotte Holmár
Rotas	Mary Adams
DBS admin	Mary Adams
Church hire	Charlotte Holmár
AV Desk Coordinator	John Snead
Administrator	Charlotte Holmár (from Sept 24)

Pastor's Report

Pastor Bob Adams

What a great encouragement you all are. The hard work and commitment that has been put in this year has been a real blessing as I know how stretched life can be at times. As ever, our testimony as a fellowship remains buoyant and more and more bridges of friendship have been built into the lives of others. Nothing encourages a pastor's heart more than hearing that the church family are of good report.

It is appreciated that everyone continues to be sacrificial in their giving of time, talent and finance. Thank you for your continued investment in the Lord's work here at Bethel. Let me encourage you...

It seems that now more than ever the Christian church needs to have a real understanding of what it means to be salt and light. Advent has just passed but it granted us the perspective we need to be who we are meant to be. Without Jesus there is no real life or hope, without Jesus we will flounder and grope at all manner of things to find satisfaction and meaning.

In our ministry together, as we spend time binding the wounds of those with a broken heart, we need to be reminded time and again that without Jesus at the centre of our lives, our efforts, although well meaning, will achieve nothing but a temporary fix. We have the decision power as to how we think, how we react, and what we believe, but we are responsible for discerning between reality and that which is fantasy. This is what distinguishes us as Christian disciples from a society/world that is on an ever-ending quest to justify and prove itself. We must 'get a grip' to tell and demonstrate to everyone that we know that we all need Jesus in our lives.

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so
that you may know how to answer everyone.

Visits

Visits continue around the fellowship, as ever, thank you for your kindness as you welcome me into your homes. I am also continuing visiting the folks in residential care and hospital also a number of new contacts.

The pastoral support team continue give much of their time visiting and passing on any pastoral concerns so that I can react effectively and for this I am very grateful.

Preaching

We have worked through more of the series in Acts in the last year (there is still more to come!), we spent some time looking at the theme of Christian identity working from different texts, we have also had a time in the letter to Philemon and the book of Ruth, latterly we began a series in Ephesians. As we start the new session we shall continue in Ephesians and I am praying in regard to what is next. As ever, let me remind you sermons are recorded and available on YouTube and Sermon scripts are available.

Baptisms

There were no baptisms last year, but the pool is always available.

Initiatives

Men's Ministry

We have tried in the last 18 months to organise an event for men, initially this was to be a bowling night but it never really got off the ground, it would be good to see some progress this year. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

Joint Services with St Andrews

We enjoyed our joint worship opportunities at Harvest and Remembrance, but the drive to really engage is lacking. This is because St Andrews continues to be in a period of pastoral vacancy, they have a temporary clergy team in place, and these folk are working extremely hard. Please continue to pray for them.

Local Ministers fraternal

Meets monthly for prayer.

Baptist Ministers fraternal

Since the reorganisation of areas by the Regional equipping minister we have seen an improvement here, and there has been a concerted effort to meet physically and online for prayer. There are a number of folk new to ministry in the group it is good to see some enthusiasm for fellowship.

Mentoring

Over the past year I have been appointed the mentor to the newly accredited minister at Willingham Kwaku Efau. Kwaku's ministry has been a great encouragement and the Baptist church in Willingham is seeing significant change and growth. Do pray for them.

Swavesey and Fen Drayton Primary Schools I have been reading in the classrooms, year 1-2 at Swavesey and year 5-6 at Fen Drayton. I am also on the Governing body at Swavesey Primary. As I type this, I am awaiting a response from a Christian theatre company in the hope that we can get them to perform their Easter program at Swavesey Primary school.

Everything is diary dependent so please pray.

It is good to be encouraged in the Lord's work.

Secretary's Report

Sue Hope

As I started to write this report, I thought nothing much had happened of note in 2024. But God doesn't work like that; there is always something that has happened or been done in His strength and for which we can give thanks. Some may be sad, others feel like celebrations. Most need thanks.

We have seen a couple of changes in our fellowship. Jan Marland went to be with her Lord and her service of thanksgiving was a wonderful celebration of her life that touched many. We continue to pray for her family. Mary and Terry moved north to be closer to family and we had a wonderful celebration to give thanks for all they had done whilst at Bethel and to give them a good send off. We pray they are settling into their new home and church. We have seen a few new faces worshipping with us and hope they have found a warm welcome as part of the Bethel family.

A few people in the fellowship have changed their roles with us. Austin retired as caretaker and cleaner and we expressed our sincere and grateful thanks for all the work he has put in over the years. And we appreciate the voluntary aspects he continues! Charlotte Holmar was appointed as our Administrator and I for one am very pleased she has joined us to help with all the admin required to keep the church going! Marianne resigned her paid role as our Youth and Children's Worker as her new business grows and flourishes (pun definitely intended!) and we give her sincere thanks for all she has done to grow the youth work over the last few years. We are blessed that she is continuing some of the aspects as her voluntary service and we look forward to what God has in store for us in the future.

At our church meeting in May two deacons were elected; Marianne and Hazel. Both have been a valuable asset to the Leadership team.

Our usual calendar of festival services continued and our series on the theme of Journey for Advent was well received. The Village Carols were again a success and thanks go to all who helped in any way.

We had a couple of successful individual community events which proved very popular and worth repeating. The Cambridge Community Gospel Choir had us all rocking in the aisles and will be well worth inviting again. RADSOC put on a performance of their Murder Mystery which was well supported by the community.

The big change in our building was the Lounge, designed and created by our young people with support and help of Marianne and the Property Team. It is well used by many groups and lots of positive comments. Well done to all involved.

During the year we heard of the devastating fire at Fen Drayton Primary School and we were able to make a substantial donation to help them recover. We praise God for opportunities to show our love and support to various groups and organisations in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in any way in all the groups that are held to reach out and support those in our community as well as those for our own Bethel family. You will read about their activities in the reports in this booklet and please do pray for them all as they do God's work.

I would also like to thank the 'unsung heroes', those who volunteer their time and resources in the background. We may not always notice but God does, so thank you to the volunteers on Sundays, the Property team, the AV team, those who visit and arrange flowers and those who quietly pray for all that is going on. If I have forgotten anyone, my sincere apologies but please accept our thanks.

As we start another year, may God bless you all and be very clear in what He wants you and us to do to spread His love and bring people into His Kingdom here on earth.

Finance

Wendy Whistler

The finance information and accounts reflect the work of the church which can be found within the individual group reports, and so this is a brief summary of the main things that have affected our finances.

Property

This year we completed work to the Youth Lounge, I am sure you will agree it is a very welcome addition to our space. The notice board has been installed and we now have a way of monitoring and controlling the heating system remotely. There have been a few repairs needed (incl. windows, water heater and boiler) in both the church building and the Manse. Work is currently being planned to overhaul the storage in the whole church building. The funds that remain from both 2023 and 2024 Thanksgiving days are in the Repairs and Maintenance budget for 2025. We are thankful for the dedication of church members to keep the building in good repair and improve facilities for all.

Thanksgiving Day

Including Gift Aid, the 2024 Thanksgiving Day raised £5,057.50. This has been distributed to MAF, Open Doors and Ngaire Keen – all matched from main general funds. We also purchased larger print bibles, chairs with arms and a defibrillator. The balance of just under £1,700 will go towards the storage plans.

Employees

We employed an administrator in August, and in November proposed that the hours for this would increase in January 2025. We also agreed in November to increase the salary to the national living wage for the administrator and increase the Pastor's stipend by the 3.4% recommended by BUGB. These have been included in the 2025 budget. The role of youth worker is under review following the resignation in August.

Hire

The building continues to be well used by community groups and for private functions. Along with the church run activities it is a busy building!

Giving

We always aim to give money to other causes as a proportion of our income and in response to need. As well as matching the £500 to each of the recipients of Thanksgiving Day funds, we gave a donation to Fen Drayton Primary School following the fire that damaged most of their resources. We continue to support Cambridge & District Youth for Christ, BMS Home Mission and BMS World Mission.

Income

As you will be aware, apart from a small amount of hire income, running the church and employing and supporting our minister is funded solely by donations and offerings from the church congregation. We are very tax efficient and maximise the amount of gift aid we can claim from these donations. This year's income has decreased from the previous year. The regular giving by church members tends to fluctuate as people's circumstances change, and at the end of the year were lower than at the start.

WHY GIVE REGULARLY?

- We want to give thanks to God for His mercies towards us and His provision
- As an act of thanksgiving and worship, we want to be a generous people with our time, prayers and finances
- It is our responsibility as a congregation to fund the stipend and associated costs of the minister and his/her family
- If we want to have a limitless vision, we need to match this with resources
- Giving is our response to God's amazing grace and the indescribable gift of His Son to us.
- Generous giving blesses others and supplies the needs of God's people; it is also an act of obedience and trust during these uncertain days – in doing it we are saying that it is God, not ourselves or anyone else, who ultimately provides for our needs.

Accounts

With regards to income, we exceeded our budget in all areas except our main area – Offerings/Regular Giving.

We had originally budgeted for an in-year deficit, but although regular income was down, we also spent less and ended the year with £4,628 more income than expenditure. Although we increased our spend above budget in some areas – administrator, Office Expenses, Utilities, we spend less on cleaning, repairs and maintenance and youth work. Our closing balance at the year end was £37,977. The accounts are reported below. We had 3 restricted funds, where income for that purpose can only be used for that purpose: Carols on the Green, Club Vintage and Time Banking Team. The General fund is unrestricted and makes up the main part of the accounts.

Income and Expenditure

Swavesey Bethel Baptist Church

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Account	2024 Total	Carols on the Green	Club Vintage	Time Banking Team	General
Income					
Donations	4,804.32	302.32	25.00	0.00	4,477.00
Events	5,285.96	490.00	2,996.51	0.00	1,799.45
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	17,182.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,182.99
Interest Income	437.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	437.26
Lettings - Church and Halls	4,883.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,883.00
Offerings	57,002.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,002.34
Total Turnover	89,595.87	792.32	3,021.51	0.00	85,782.04
Income	89,595.87	792.32	3,021.51	0.00	85,782.04

Account	2024 Total	Carols on the Green	Club Vintage	Time Banking Team	General
Expenditure					
Administrator	1,170.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,170.00
Church Services	1,632.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,632.37
Cleaning	4,483.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,483.34
Equipment	1,195.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,195.83
Event or Activity	4,188.91	545.33	2,639.23	0.00	1,004.35
Giving	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Insurance	2,465.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,465.44
Minister	35,012.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,012.96
Mission	6,503.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,503.35
Office Expenses	2,258.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,258.01
Pastoral Needs	875.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	875.25
Repairs & Maintenance	6,395.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,395.22
Subscriptions	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00
Utilities	8,530.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,530.72
Youth Work	5,608.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,608.27
Total Administrative Costs	84,338.67	545.33	2,639.23	0.00	81,154.11
In Year Balance	5,257.20	246.99	382.28	0.00	4,627.93
Opening Balance	36,433.91	1,345.83	1,563.05	175.90	33,349.13
Carry Forward to 2025	41,691.11	1,592.82	1,945.33	175.90	37,977.06

2024 Budget

- In the November fellowship meeting we agreed the following:
- To increase the administrator's hours to 10 hours per week from January 2025
- To increase the administrator's pay rate to the national living wage of £12.60 per hour
- To increase the stipend payable to our Pastor by the BU recommendation of 3.4%
- A couple of other points upon which the budget is based:
- Offerings have been calculated based on the level of giving in December 2024
- The Gift Aid has been calculated on the tax efficient giving of 2024.
- We expect the cost of utilities, cleaning products and general supplies to continue to increase.
- We need to ensure we have funds to tackle property issues and purchase of equipment as necessary to be safe and deliver services.
- Part of the property budget includes the remaining funds for the 'Youth Lounge' project and £1700 towards the plans for storage.
- We expect a further in-year deficit, but we have enough reserves to support this and any other projects or giving that we wish to pursue and support during the year.

2025 Budget

Swavesey Bethel Baptist Church

Account	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Income			
Donations	1,100.00	4,477.00	1,100.00
Events	1,000.00	1,799.45	1,000.00
Gift Aid Tax Refunds	16,850.00	17,182.99	16,000.00
Interest Income	250.00	437.26	400.00
Lettings - Church and Halls	3,500.00	4,883.00	4,500.00
Offerings	58,000.00	57,002.34	56,500.00
Total Turnover	80,700.00	85,782.04	79,500.00
Income	80,700.00	85,782.04	79,500.00
Expenditure			
Administrator	0.00	1,170.00	6,552.00
Church Services	2,300.00	1,632.37	2,000.00
Cleaning	7,220.00	4,483.34	5,000.00
Equipment	1,000.00	1,195.83	1,000.00
Event or Activity	2,000.00	1,004.35	2,000.00
General			50.00
Giving	1,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00
Insurance	2,500.00	2,465.44	2,800.00
Minister	35,770.00	35,012.96	36,500.00
Mission	6,500.00	6,503.35	6,500.00
Office Expenses	1,500.00	2,258.01	2,500.00
Pastoral Needs	1,000.00	875.25	1,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	10,000.00	6,395.22	10,000.00
Subscriptions	550.00	19.00	550.00
Utilities	5,000.00	8,530.72	9,000.00
Youth Work	7,500.00	5,608.27	1,000.00
Total Administrative Costs	83,840.00	81,154.11	87,452.00
In Year Balance	(3,140.00)	4,627.93	(7,952.00)
Opening Balance	33,349.13	33,349.13	37,977.06
Closing Balance	30,209.13	37,977.06	30,025.06

Worship group

Wendy Snead

Leader: Wendy Snead

Keyboard: Jo Cayley
Eden Ludlam

Guitars: Sam Holmár
Yinka Opaleye

Recorders: Genny Silvanus
Rhiannon Silvanus
Jo Cayley

Drums: Pete Holt
Dear

Singers: Wendy Snead
Charlotte Holmár
Connie Wilson
Sue Hope
John Snead

Flute: Connie Wilson

Clarinet: Ellen Silvanus
Genny Silvanus

AV Desk: Jon Mills
Jason and John

John Snead
Pete Holt
John Smith
Sam Holmár

As a 'Worship group', singers and instrumentalists alike, we aim to work together for the glory of God the Father, Jesus the Son and with the Holy Spirit's help guide and direct us in leading others closer to Him in worship.

I may be writing this report but feel I am merely part of a team of several who lead the group and the worship for services each Sunday.

So, firstly, I would like to personally thank Sue Hope, Sam Holmár, Charlotte Holmár, Marianne Holt and Becky Dear who, together with those who help out or lead Café style services are a tremendous asset to the worshipping life of our church family at Bethel!

Each member of the group listed above from the youngest to the eldest demonstrates a commitment and willingness to develop and learn the difference between 'performing' and worshipping whilst playing or singing each week, and for that I am grateful. The Tech members do a great job too of video'ing the sermons and making sure that the service plans are put into an order that enhances the flow of worship each week.

Over the last year, worship has included preaching from various 'visiting speakers'. Namely Adrian Woodbridge, Helen Symonds, Matt Farley from Scripture Union, Bob Kilpatrick, Polly Wilderspin and John Smith. We thank God for their input, fresh insight into the word of God and its application to our everyday life.

Services in the last year, have included a variety of themes and many have been challenging and thought provoking!

Lent and Easter services followed the theme of 'The cross' and we had both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Easter morning started with a sunrise service and concluded with a café church enjoying and celebrating the resurrection of our Lord!

We have studied the book of Acts, Ruth, other themes and are at present nearing the end of Ephesians. At Pentecost in a café style service we explored the various images of the Holy Spirit. This proved to be thought provoking and interactive and special thanks to Charlotte Holmar for her artistic input! Other café churches were led by Becky Dear, Janet King, Bob, and Sue Hope, all bringing their gifts to honour God in new ways.

In November we Joined others for the Remembrance Day service at St Andrews

During the Advent period we looked at the theme of 'journeying to Bethlehem', with Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, and Wise Men and this culminated with the Carols by Candlelight service which saw us joining together to be 'Bethlehem bound'. This service was enhanced by monologues from various Biblical characters who had some part to play in the journey taken to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph. A big thank you to all who took part, but especially those who were not afraid to dress up and enter into the Christmas story in an alternative way. We were joined for this service by Joe McLelland on Keyboard, Adam Woodvine on Trumpet and Ellen Silvanus on Clarinet. Many thanks to them for enhancing the musical accompaniment.

As we move on into the rest of this new year (2025) please would you pray for all of us in the group and that others might feel that they'd like to join us.

We are especially keen that there is prayer for another keyboard player so that we can distribute the load of one person having to play each Sunday.

Anyone who would like to join the group this year, would be most welcome and just needs to come and chat to me, whatever age or musical ability you are!

Also, if anyone feels led to put together a café style service please come and talk to any of the worship team and /or Bob.

May our worship always be....

'to the praise of His glorious grace, to the praise of His glory and power to Him be all glory honour and praise for ever and ever and ever ...Amen.

Tuesday Homegroup #1

John Snead

Our group meets most Tuesday evenings although like other groups we take a break during the school holidays, or if most of us can't make it that week. A good part of our evening is spent sharing what's been happening in our lives since last meeting. But that's not just idle chit-chat about what we've done and where we've been – although there is a lot of that of course! We share concerns and issues that are troubling us and our families, and this seeds our prayers later in the evening. Some of us have navigated difficult personal and family issues this year; the support from the group has been tremendously helpful.

We had been following the Bible Society's course on the book of Romans through Autumn 2023, and we continued with this through to Easter of this year. Each of the ten sessions was supposed to be done in one evening, but we generally talk so much both before and during the study, and there being 2 videos to watch in each session, that we ended up taking 2 weeks for each! Hence not finishing it until Easter.

I then took a chance on an apparently interesting study guide called "From Easter to Pentecost". Well, it sounded like a great subject, but the book was poorly written, not always focussing on each week's topic, and the author seemed to have it in for both St Paul and the Church of England! So, we gave up in the end and did our own thing. (Serves me right for splashing out on a self-published Amazon book with no reviews 😊)

After the summer break we spent a few weeks following Bob's sermons on the book of Ephesians, looking at the passage Bob had covered on the previous Sunday, and sharing further what we thought the passage was saying.

We broke off from this to look at a publication from Hope Together, the Evangelical Alliance and other organisations entitled "Talking Jesus Report 2022"; its subtitle is "What people in the UK think of Jesus, Christians and evangelism." It reported not only on the state of faith in the UK, giving statistics on the prevalence of Christian beliefs, but also with a focus on how much non-Christians know about Christianity and how much contact they have with Christians. If you want to look at the report, go to <https://talkingjesus.org/research>

In the final part of the report, 'Next Steps', two points stood out to us:

- Use your social media and online presence to share stories about the difference knowing Jesus makes in your life
- Give friends, family, neighbours an accessible copy of the life events of Jesus Christ to read

This got us thinking ... and the idea behind "talkingchristmas" was born as we started planning a brand new "out-of-our-comfort-zone" activity. We decided to make a series of short videos for publishing on various social media platforms throughout the month of

December, with Christmas themes and with each person putting a personal slant on the subject they were presenting. It was challenging, but we used our different gifts to work out all the technical logistics and choose and allocate the subjects. There was a lot of prayer involved as we moved through the planning, writing, recording, editing and publishing of 26 videos (an introduction plus 25 days of December). Part of our plan, as in the second point above, was to give out a booklet called "Gift of Christmas" to non-Christians we all know, and many of the video subjects were inspired by that book. Perhaps you saw a copy; hopefully you passed it on to a non-Christian friend.

We were bowled over by the success of our venture, although of course we shouldn't have been surprised with God in charge of it all. Records show that there were over 57000 views over Facebook, TikTok and Instagram through December, and weeks later they are still being watched; many of these were people viewing a series of videos, so people were coming back for more. Okay, a good number of those viewing were Christian friends; we have no way of knowing how many were seen by non-Christians, and what the impact it made, but we are assured that the Holy Spirit has the responsibility for that part of their spiritual journey, and we trust God in that.

So, what next for the Tuesday home group? Well, that depends on what God prompts us to do. Join with us if you would like to find out!

Tuesday Homegroup #2

Hazel Adamson

We started the year fresh from the Christmas break. We studied women in Jesus lineage and the impact they had on the story. Jan the next went into hospital for a while and we continued with the females and their impact on story of Jesus.

We then used the 24/7 videos for Be Still and varying characters leading up to the crucifixion. During this time with heavy hearts but relief for Jan she left us to be with her Lord . We were able to spend time together mourning and rejoicing for Jan's life and what joy she brought us and her powerful faith.

In July, due to many different reasons, it was decided the group would have a break. We finished the term with a social mea

Thursday Afternoon Homegroup

Mary Adams & Viki Letzer

There were 11 of us meeting each week in the church lounge. Sadly, Terry and Mary have moved away so we are down to 9. We are steadily working away through the bible and are, at present, travelling through the book of Numbers.

We usually alternate spending an hour discussing the chapters that we are on, and then have a short sharing time before spending time in prayer. Sometimes we start with study and other times with prayer.

Thursday afternoons are enjoyable and educational. Pastor Bob is welcoming, good humoured and well prepared for each session, giving us notes on the area to be studied.

The group has come together and a confident and trusting atmosphere has developed. Members opinions are welcomed without fear of being put down. We have all, regardless of previous history, learnt more about God, and that is possibly because different people contribute different viewpoints.

Various social and bonding activities have been organised with more to come in the future.

If you wish to join us at 2pm on a Thursday please come along, you will be warmly welcomed.

Thursday Evening Homegroup

Kate Wilson

The Thursday evening group meet at try Holmárs house every second Thursday. It is a wonderful warm and welcoming group where we pray and support each other through the ups and downs and challenges and successes of every day life.

We started off the year studying the C.S.Lewis text 'Mere Christianity' - this was a study which involved some video components as well as the discussions of various chapters from this important book. Our study of this led to the hosting of a church movie night for people to come together to watch The lion, the witch and the wardrobe which was enjoyed by all.

Over the summer we had a lot of discussion around politics, conflicts and elections around the world. We took time to come together to pray for these situations and for wisdom for those in power or coming into power.

We have recently moved onto studying the book of Esther - we are all finding it very interesting to take a deep dive into this book of the bible. Janet managed to find us a study that has some colouring involved too which aids concentration and focus on the topics and themes being discussed.

I know all members really value the opportunity every fortnight to come together as a group, to share fellowship and discuss our relationship and understanding of God further. This is always accompanied by delicious tea and coffee provided by Sam and Charlotte.

Prayer

PrayerMail

Noreen Morgan

Prayermail requests are like bananas - they come in bunches, nothing and then 2 or 3 requests! It is always a privilege to share our prayer needs with our Bethel family. Thank you all for your support and prayers. We know our loving and faithful God hears all our prayers. We also know that His Holy Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. God's response can be yes, no or not now. We can leave our prayers at the foot of the Cross and trust in Him.

Please continue to share these with our Christian brothers and sisters.

Sunday Prayer Meeting

John Porter

Sunday Prayers is held from 9.00 to 9.30 a.m. each week and is an opportunity to meet together on Zoom to pray. At present the numbers meeting varies between three and six and we focus our prayers on personal matters, including those notified via the Prayer Mails that Noreen circulates, situations that are of concern whether they be local, national or international. The gathering also enables prayers to be offered for the preaching of the word of God, and the messenger, that will be given during the service at Bethel and other Churches that we know or that we are linked with in some way.

I am sure that those who already meet for Sunday Prayers would be greatly encouraged to have you join us either regularly or from time to time. One of the amazing things about our God is that He not only hears our voices when we speak but He listens to the cries of our hearts. That being so, whether you join us and pray aloud or offer up cries from your heart your presence at Sunday Prayers will be greatly valued.

Zoom login details:

Username: 582 377 8260

Password: Bethel2020

Direct link: [Bethel Zoom Login](#)

Club Vintage

Sue Hope, Wendy & John Snead



Leaders: Wendy and John Snead, Sue Hope

Volunteers: Judith Kitchener, Leigh Clements, Trisha Howard, Mary Adams, Miggy Firth, Lynda Dickerson

Drivers: Sue Ellington, Hazel Adamson, Malcolm Clements, Genny Silvanus, Steven Wilson

We have continued to meet every week through the year on a Wednesday afternoon, apart from on Christmas Day and New Year's Day when we took a break!

Our programme contains the regular Love to Move exercise sessions, our Lyrics and Laughter singing and occasional crafts to fit the theme of a festival, such as Valentine's Day, Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Other activities have included:

- An outing to Anglesey Abbey, which was doubtful due to a forecast of rain but turned out to be the hottest day so far in the year!
- A celebration of VE day with a couple who sang songs of the era all dressed in red, white and blue. This was very well received by all and even got some of the volunteers doing line dancing to the music! Definitely an occasion to be repeated.
- A visit by the primary school twice in the year. A concert in the summer with lots of pupils sharing their talent by playing different instruments and again at Christmas singing carols for and with us.
- A theme to our Lyrics and Laughter based on the rainbow, using a colour each week which was reflected in thoughts, songs and a bit of history! Very entertaining and interesting. Our thanks go to Joe and Jan McLelland for musical accompaniment and sharing interesting facts about the colours.
- On 18th December we celebrated Christmas by cooking and serving Christmas dinner for 40, which was enjoyed by all.

It was lovely to see some members and volunteers at Bethel Christmas services and Village Carols.

During 2024 we have had 3 new members and said goodbye to 4, including our dear friend Jan Marland, who is sorely missed. Our average weekly attendance is 17 and we have 33 on the register. We also welcomed a new volunteer, Lynda and more people offering to help with transport – if you could offer help with driving, if only occasionally, please let us know. To all our volunteers we give our grateful thanks as we could not run the club without them.

We celebrate birthdays through the year, including those of the leaders and helpers. New members are always welcome to join us and if you know someone who is

lonely or a couple who need company, please do give them a copy of our programme or let us know so that we can contact them.

Youth and Families

Marianne Holt

In the summer of 2024 I finished my official role as Youth worker for Bethel and therefore things have been a little different since then.

We sent off 2 more plastic pen collections - Almost 40kg box of plastic that has not gone into landfill and has raised money for Ellie's fund brain tumour research. Sadly I have just found out that they no longer collect pens.

Sunday School continues much the same, Becky, Jason, Dawn, Sam and Charlotte are the most regular leaders. The older teenagers have started helping with the younger group.

The Youth Bible study took a break for a few months but is back up and running in the youth lounge fortnightly. We have finished the Satellites book and now are looking at prayer. We're hoping that many people in the Church might take a turn to join us and chat about personal faith and prayer so that we can learn from each other as Church family.

The Hub is growing and we have a good contingent of school year 6's and upwards who are very regular. Parents are incredibly thankful for somewhere safe and welcoming for their youngsters to meet. We have had some offers of help from parents now which is a relief as having just 2 Bethel leaders is stretching it too thin! Our older church teenagers are still running the very popular tuckshop and leading some epic just dance sessions!

We have a small team that go along and help at Xcellerate weekend every year.

Again some Church families went along to Big Church Festival - unfortunately for 2025 they have moved the festival to the summer which is not ideal.

Summer 2024 saw the Youth Group go along to the FANTASTIC 'Satellites' festival again. This year several of the group were on the staff team, serving the festival goes part time. Caleb joined the sports team, Libby was working in a cafe while Rhiannon, Connie and Ngaire worked with the kids ministry teams. Pete H worked on the tech team. We also teamed up with Newport Pagnell Baptist Church who had never been to Satellites before. We did a feedback Sunday service which the teenagers really enjoyed again. We're booking for summer 2025 and have even more people going along.

There is a small team meeting to discuss the future of youthwork and how to serve our families now that we no longer have a specific youth worker in post. We have lots of great contacts and opportunities but need to decide where we feel God might be leading. What a blessed position to be in as a Church!

Little Lights

Charlotte Holmár



We have had another fruitful and blessed year at Little Lights in 2024. Our small Little Lights team has changed this year- We are now a team of 6 (Marianne, Charlotte. H, Miggy, Janet, Wendy.S & Anna). We would like to offer a huge thank you to Mary. C and Margaret for all your help with Little Lights over the past couple of years. We are also so grateful to Wendy for joining the team!

We started 2024 with 158 children registered with Little Lights and ended with 240!! This has been a huge increase in numbers for us, which not only has been noticeable by the increase in snacks needed but also meant we had to make the difficult decision to close the doors due to maximum capacity for 1 week in November.

Families join us 10:00am-12:00pm every Friday morning during term time for just £2 per family. During this time families are welcome to free-flow through the building where there are little cars and ride on toys in the meridian hall where they enter, drinks and snacks at the bar, a quiet room for reading and teddies in the lounge and lots of toys and activities including song time in the main church.

This year we made the decision to close Little Lights during the holidays. This was a really difficult decision because we are aware that there are so many local families that could only come to Little Lights during the holidays due to work schedules and others that rely on groups like ours to help keep their children entertained through the holidays. But unfortunately, due to the small team, we felt it was necessary in order to give our lovely volunteers a break.

Please thank God with us for the families we have had the privilege to meet who have become real friends and in some cases, even help to volunteer. Please pray for those that will be starting school later this year, we will be saying goodbye to some of our very first Little Lighters. Please pray for opportunities to stay connected to these families. Once again we thank you for our continued support to Little Lights!

Compass Café

Ruth Day

We acknowledge with thankfulness the commitment of the helpers and cake makers through another year of Compass Cafe. New health and safety regulations have increased the demand on time and effort from everyone, but this has been met with a positive, good humoured attitude to help retain the homely, welcoming environment we have endeavoured to create over the years.

In October we were sad to have to say "Goodbye" to Terry and Mary, stalwart members of the team for a long time. We miss their cooperation, reliability, humour and especially the scones. May they be blessed and fulfilled in their new calling to Garforth.

Compass Cafe, a shared community project, continues to be a worthwhile venture in that it helps keep contact with various other groups in the village, and provides a meeting place for folk who can be spending most of their time alone. It does also seem to be a favourite "watering hole" for Cambridgeshire cyclists who love to call in, consume large amounts of cake and work it off by cycling another fifty miles or so to get home.

We are so pleased that Miggy and Lynda have joined our team and we hope they enjoy sharing and serving with us.