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WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday	9:45 am	Prayer meeting
	10:30 am	Morning worship
Monday	9:15 am	Sandy Lane Toddlers
Tuesday	2:00 pm	Tuesday Club
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Brownies
	7:30 pm	Guides
Thursday	2:00 pm	Fellowship
	5:45 pm	Parish council youth club 11-19s
		Info Calais 07582101067
Friday	7:30 pm	Network Games - Day /Time varies – check with Joe
Saturday	10:00 am	Coffee Morning

Sandy Lane Ladies Group Programme – Tuesdays at 2PM

Nov 7 Pie & Peas Lunch
Nov 14 Philip Tordoff Old Musical Favourites
Nov 21 Bingo
Nov 28 Jenny Griffin Keep Fit
Dec 5 Party Games & Snacks
Dec 12 Vocal Aires Ladies Choir
Dec 19 Christmas lunch – West Bradford Golf Club

Thank you to all who supported the Bring & buy sale for Macmillan Cancer Support
The amount raised was £250

Note the first meeting in 2018 will be Tuesday 3rd January

intouch

November &
December 2017



But I trust in you, Lord; I say "You are my God"
My times are in your hands
Psalm 31 verses 14-15a



**Bethel Baptist
Church**

Building Community in Christ

What matters most

Love means living the way God commanded us to live. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is this: live a life of love 2 John 1:6

Because God is love, the most important lesson he wants us all to learn is how to love. It is in loving that we are most like him. The whole law can be summed up in one command "Love others as you love yourself" Galations 5:14

Learning to love unselfishly is not easy, we are given a lifetime to learn it. God wants us to love everyone, but he particularly wants us to learn to love those in his family. Why ? Because God wants his family to be known for its love more than anything else. Jesus said our love for each other is our greatest witness to the world. God trains us by giving us family responsibilities ,the most important of these is to keep practising loving each other .Love will never be learnt in isolation, we have to be around people - those irritating , imperfect, frustrating people . Being together in Christ's family we can learn three important Truths

Life without love is really worthless

Paul says " No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love" 1 Corinthians 13:3msg Relationships are really important , four of the Ten Commandments deal with our relationship to God ,the other six deal with our relationships with people. But all ten are about relationships! Our Busyness is a great enemy of relationships. We can so easily become preoccupied with making a living, doing our work, paying our bills and accomplishing our own goals as if these tasks are the point of life. They are not ! The point of life is learning to love – God and people

Love will last forever

1 Corinthians 13:13 These things continue forever: faith, hope & love, and the greatest of these is love. Love leaves a legacy. How you have treated others, not your wealth or accomplishments, is the most enduring impact you can leave on earth. Mother Teresa said "It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters" When life on earth is ending, people don't surround themselves with objects, but with people we love and have relationships with.

We will be evaluated on our love

In heaven God won't say, "Tell me about your career, your bank account and your hobbies" Instead he will review how you treated other people, particularly those in need. Galations 5 :6 "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" Knowing this each morning when you wake pray " God whether I get anything else done today, I want to make sure that I spend time loving you and loving other people – because that is what life is all about.

The Best Expression Of Love Is Time

The more time you give to something, the more you reveal its importance and value to you. Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you cannot make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them part of your life that you will never get back. It's not enough to say relationships are important, we must prove it by investing time in them.

Relationships take time and effort, and the best way to spell love is "T-I-M-E"

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Love means giving up- setting aside my preferences, comforts, goals, security, money, energy, or time for the benefit of someone else.

John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life

THE BEST TIME TO LOVE IS NOW

Article based on a book written by Rick Warren "The Purpose Driven life"

May you all continue to know Gods Love- God Bless Richard

Rotas

Date	Refreshments	Welcomers	
		Top Door	Lower Door
Nov 5	Shirley & Maureen	Margaret	Richard
12	Steve & Angela	Margaret	Richard
19	Tom & Ruth	Margaret	Richard
26	Sylvia	Margaret	Richard
Dec 3	Sandra & Louise	Glenys	Gordon
10	Elizabeth	Glenys	Gordon
17	Louise	Glenys	Gordon
24	Shirley & Maureen	Glenys	Gordon
25		Glenys	Gordon
31	Steve & Angela	Glenys	Gordon

If you are not able to fulfil your dates, please arrange a substitute. **Thank you.**

Services C = Communion Service

Date	C	Speaker	Readings	Theme
Nov 5		Jenny Cousins	Psalm 13	How long O Lord
12		Paul Blakey	Psalm 58	Cursing your enemies
19	C	Christine Crabtree		
26		Neil Harris		
Dec 3		John Edwards		
10		Jim Small		
17	C	Paul Severs	NOTE 4.00pm	VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE
24		Richard Mason		Christmas Eve
25		Gordon Sitch	Christmas Day	Start 10.00AM
31		Sharing Time	Please bring your	Contribution

For Your Diary And Your Prayers

Deacons Meetings First Tuesday of each month

Church Meeting Provisional date Wednesday 13th December (TBC)

Other Events

6th November 7.00pm to 8.00pm Prayers for Sandy Lane

9th November 7.00pm Quiz night everybody welcome

12th November 10.30am Remembrance service
12.30pm Act of remembrance in the Park followed by Refreshments at Bethel

Saturday 16th December Carols in the Park 6.30pm Followed by Refreshments at Bethel

Sunday 17th December Sandy Lane Village Carol service 4.00pm

Baptist Missionary Society Birthday scheme

If you would like to celebrate your birthday by giving to BMS World Mission and Join this scheme please have a word with Dorothy. Anyone can join, including children. On their birthday members receive a card with a gift envelope to make a donation to BMS

Happy birthday to

November 4th Elizabeth Woodyatt

6th Diane MacBairdy

December 28th Katherine Macmillan

Thanks for all the Gifts of food & money received at the Harvest service these have been passed on to the foodbank & JOY

Treasurers thanks --Weekly offerings are currently averaging £ 495 Please would you check that your offerings can still be gift aided as allowances have changed. Any questions Sandra will try to help

Intouch This issue is the last one prepared by Wendy, Margaret & Richard. Thank you for all your work. Diane is taking responsibility for the January 2018 onwards, Kindly let Diane have your contributions for the next issue by 10th December thank you .



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

Advent Prayers

From the very beginning was
Your Word
Which spoke this world into being
Your Word
Which thunders from the skies
Your Word
Which flows like mountain streams
Your Word
Which whispers in morning breeze
Your Word
Revealed through kings and prophets
Your Word
Revealed through Angels' praise
Your Word
Revealed in humble service
Your Word
Revealed through a tiny child
Your Word
Alive from the beginning of all things
And to eternity. You are the Father who welcomes home
The prodigal who has wandered far
You are the Father who prepares a meal
When others would simply ignore

You are the Father whose love extends
Beyond our thoughts or minds
You are the Father who knows our hearts
And yet loves us as we are
You are the Father whose word we trust
In whose presence we have no fear
You are the Father whose tender touch
Makes a wounded spirit whole
You are the Father whose only Son
Was born that he might die
You are the Father whose gracious love
We celebrate in advent. Amen

Message from the Bible Society

Muslims who fled the war in Aleppo are turning to the Bible.

That is because Bible society staff are there, offering the Bible to 1.5 million refugees that have sought refuge across the border in Lebanon where they remain, afraid to return for fear of the ongoing unrest.

These families, many who have lost loved ones, have been traumatised by the horrors they have witnessed - but they are hungry for the Bible where they are discovering Christ and finding new hope.

There`s a vast yearning for the Gospel - please help to provide the Bibles

Yasmin, 30, is from a Muslim background and after getting Married she helped her husband, Idris, build a two bedroom home in Aleppo. They started a family but within six weeks of moving in to their new home, the war shattered their dreams. Yasmine tells her story

“We fled because they started to bomb our village. I was preparing food & my husband was coming home so we could share lunch together. A bomb dropped so close to our home the whole house shook and our little boy was on the floor because he was so scared. The bombing did not stop, the day we left people said, “you will be killed” but we did not have any other option

The journey that led Yasmine to a Bible

After a gruelling 22 hour journey to escape, Yasmine crossed the border and arrived safely in Lebanon, but they were traumatised. She met a Christian who took her along to the Bible society`s trauma healing course. She received one of the society`s Arabic Bibles & regularly attended our Bible based healing Course. As other women in the group shared their stories & studied the Bible, God began to work in Yasmine`s life, she discovered God speaking to her through the Bibles pages. She says “now the burden in my heart & soul has gone” Yasmine tells us “I am proud to know Jesus Christ. The lord Jesus changed our lives. We know the way now. This is the right way. We want to learn more about him. Without him we are nothing.”

Today, Yasmine treasures her Bible as much as you and I do, & her family regularly attend church. Her family told her to stop going to church – so her husband, Idris stepped in & replied. “Before you say anything rude, read the Bible & you will see that this is about love. Don`t say anything until you know what`s written in there”

Seeing Yasmine & her husband Idris sharing their new faith is so encouraging so we would love to have more Bibles to give to the Syrian refugees who long for a new start and a new hope. The task is almost overwhelming so we are asking for your help.

How can you help? the cost of an Arabic Bible is £5

We are suggesting that as part of Our Christmas giving at Bethel we provide envelopes for your Christmas offering that this year goes to the Bible Society, Your gift will have a huge impact. Not all new believers can openly go to church, so having their own Bible nourishes their faith & helps them to grow in Christ

Bradford Foodbank

Sue regularly encourages us to contribute food to the Bradford Foodbank, but have you ever wondered why we do this and what happens to the food that is given? I was

interested to find out more and to see if I could also help in any other way so earlier this year I contacted the organisers of the Foodbank and offered my service as a volunteer. I now go along on a Thursday morning whenever I can.

At the centre, on Chapel Street in the centre of Bradford - opposite Bradford Playhouse - food donated from various organisations such as ourselves and from supermarkets is collected and sorted into the different food types eg. baked beans; pasta; cereal; tinned fruit etc. Volunteers then pack about 15 different items and a small 'treat' - this could be a packet of crisps or small bar of chocolate - into a carrier bag. On a good day at least 100 bags are packed and stored on the shelves ready to be collected and given to those in need.

While the bags are being packed people are arriving from different organisations across the city, including various charities and Social Services to take bags of food to give to people known to them who are in need. The people in need are those who are in crisis - perhaps they have suddenly lost their job and have no income; or recently arrived in the city as asylum seekers or trafficked. The bag contains enough basic food to sustain them for a couple of days, including: cereal; milk; tea bags; pasta; vegetables; fruit and soup.

It is sad to think that as fast as bags can be packed they are being collected and distributed - the need is growing rather than diminishing. The need increases further during the school holidays as families no longer receive free meals at school for their children so need even more money to provide the basics.

If you would like to know more about the Foodbank please have a look at their website:

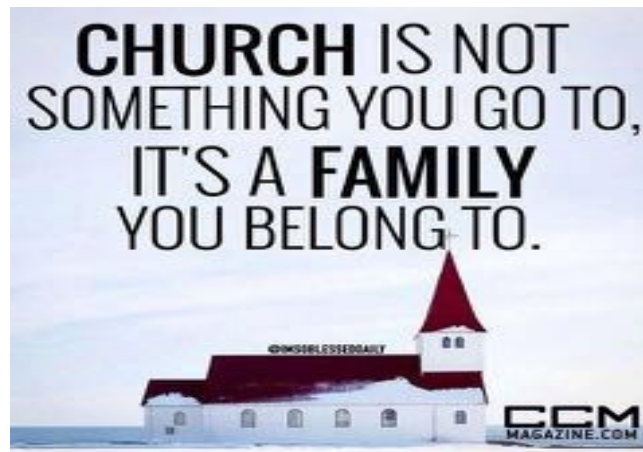
<http://bradfordfoodbank.com/> or come and talk to me.

Although this is a serious topic we do have fun as we pack the bags - and usually manage time for a cup of tea and sometimes even a piece of cake baked by one of the volunteers to keep us going!

Your contributions each week are really appreciated - every little helps as they say - so please do keep giving whatever you can afford and thank you, it really does help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Diane

REVERSE ADVENT instead of enjoying a little chocolate or opening a calendar window why not each day put a food item in a basket to donate to food bank



We pray for our church and its future. We value our church family and pray for the needs of its people. We pray for those who have left home for the first time that they may feel the love of the church family reaching out to them. We pray for those who are ill that the warmth and support of the church family will be a source of healing. We pray for those who care for family members and pray that they will feel the strength of the church family supporting them even when they can't attend. We pray for those who minister to the church family each Sunday that they may continue to inspire us and lead into the paths of truth and righteousness. We pray for those who have links with our church family and remember our BMS missionaries serving overseas. We think of the people of Sandy Lane as the God Loves Sandy Lane Leaflets are distributed. We pray for those delivering that they may feel supported by the church family and also that this may result in others experiencing that togetherness. We pray for those who do Fair Trade and help to ensure that the church family is indirectly supporting people in other countries. We pray for those who deliver to the Foodbank ensuring a supply of food to those often without hope, feeling hungry and needing support in their helplessness. We pray for other church families and especially think of Tetley Street and those members from Bethel who help to keep that church family going.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer

12 PRIVILEGES OF A CHURCH MEMBER

God has spanned the universe to make me one of His great family. Christ came and died for me. Christ is alive even more than I am. I have accepted Him as my Saviour and my Lord and I belong to the great family of God – the church of Jesus Christ.

I am a member of it. There are millions like me throughout the world and through people like me Christ continues His work by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a member of Christ's church God gives me the privilege of-

1 Living Victoriously. God has dealt with my sin once and for all. When I am tempted or when I commit a sin I can go straight to God for strength or forgiveness because now I want to be like Jesus and go with Him all the way. Each day is a New Beginning.

2 Worshipping Regularly. Unless I have a genuine reason my place is in church on Sunday, sharing in the highest activity of which my human nature is capable – worship.

3 Reading My Bible Daily. This is my daily food and I need it. If I find some of it hard to understand, I can get help from Bible notes, from the minister, from books and Bible classes. I cannot grow without this – it is the bread of life.

4 Praying Continually. Especially when I don't feel like it or when I feel that I am just talking to myself - I must keep on praying. Prayer is the air my soul breathes. I

can give thanks, pray for others, ask forgiveness and be still in His presence, and open my heart to God. God answers prayer in His own way, and prayer changes things.

5 Bearing My Witness. Overcoming my "nerves" I am ready to speak up for my Lord in whatever company I am and that word must be matched by an honest, pure and unselfish, dependable life. I must watch how I speak and take a smile with me. This is the life!

6 Empowering My Church. A church strong in prayer is a strong church. I know it is harder to pray as part of the team but that is why I need to be part of the praying church and never be absent from the communion service or the church at prayer.

7 Governing My Church. Under God I am privileged to help in deciding and discovering what God would have His church be and do. This is why I should never miss a church meeting.

8 Giving. I wouldn't go shopping with £1, thus I must give God what I can honestly afford. A tenth is often a good guide, but after all, God sees not what I give but what I keep for myself. The more I receive the more I can give.

9 Serving. I have a talent to use for serving God by serving others. It may only be a small talent but the more I use it the brighter it grows. I lose it when I do not use it. Because of Jesus, I am privileged to do some jobs that others will not do. I am saved to serve.

10 Belonging. Not only to my own church fellowship but to the people of Christ in the town, the country and throughout the whole world. Wherever I go I need Christian fellowship to keep spiritually alive and sensitive. Without this I may shrivel and start to die.

11 Living in the World. As Jesus did, and not seeking to escape from it. Because I belong to Christ I can be a better worker, a better employer, a better informed and responsible citizen of this world. I am involved in this world of people because Jesus is involved with them and all their problems.

12 Trusting Him. And NOT my feelings. My job is NOT to do what I feel like doing but what I know I OUGHT to do. Everyone goes through depressing times – so will I. I will also go through doubt and sorrow and get my feelings hurt and be offended, but I do NOT trust my FEELINGS – I trust the LORD JESUS CHRIST and His promises.

It is because I am not a good enough Christian that I need these privileges of belonging to Jesus Christ and His Church.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP GOING FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE

At our recent special church meeting it was agreed to appoint a small working group to prayerfully consider how the Church leadership might be structured and operate. A group has now been appointed and will be meeting to discuss, pray and seek Gods leading over the next few weeks. We have sought a diverse group in both experience and outlook, made up of Diane, Richard, Steve, John, Elizabeth L., and Facilitated by Rhona.

It will be much appreciated if you could all commit to pray that the Lord would help the group to know His will and plans for our way forward. Also that as individuals we might all know the Lords leading for our service at Bethel and in our personal lives.

Following a very positive initial meeting we would invite any member to share his or her thoughts on options for leadership and enabling the church to move forward in a new way. It can be a difficult task to listen and then bring a verbal summary to a meeting, so rather than seeking to share your views directly with group members, we would appreciate any thoughts or insights to be given in writing or by e mail (preferably to Rhona) as soon as possible, so that they can be prayerfully considered by the group at an early stage. The group are working towards having a draft proposal available to share with the church by the end of November.

It is a challenging task and we would ask for your prayers, trust and support during this time of uncertainty and change.