

The Bethel Mag

The Church
that Meets at
Bethel



1900
BETHEL CHAPEL



Summer
2023

The magazine from the church
In the community
For the community

NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

Hi People. How lovely to be writing this in the truly melting warmth of the Bethel office. It's 7pm and we still need the fan on!! Summer has come, and it's beautiful. Every season is superb, and even though my most favourite is Autumn, I love all the seasons for their uniqueness and contribution to our earth's loveliness.

Since the last Bethel Mag, we've been through the gloriously inexplicable season of Easter - the Jesus story - the story of God's love invading our world. The Choral Society sang "The Crucifixion" written so many years ago by John Stainer, and the timeless music is a faith-deepener for all who will open their hearts and let Jesus in.

We've also had an event that for many of us is once in a lifetime - the coronation of a new monarch.

King Charles III went through a shortened version of the coronation service, and yet it retained the deepest, most holy moment of all, when he is disrobed, left in a linen tunic and is seen kneeling before God in a moment of stripped-back humility. All the robes of royalty are gone, and it's just the man and God, eye to eye with nothing in between.



It's a holy moment, because there's no where to hide, literally in Westminster Abbey and across the globe as people watched in by their millions, Charles was on his knees, asking God to anoint him to be His servant - to serve God so that he could serve the people.

Whatever you think of the monarchy, what's important, is that the now

King of the United Kingdom needs our prayers. He's expressed his own Christian faith, so may our prayers ask the Lord to help and strengthen him to be the King God needs him to be.



So the next big thing in the Bethel calendar is the Summer Fair. We are out of COVID restrictions, and the Bethel Summer Fair preparations are in full swing. **Saturday 1st July at 12 noon** is the date and time to

remember. Most, if not all of us, are experiencing some impact from the “cost of living crisis.” Everything, not just gas and electricity, seems to be more expensive. Bethel is no different - we are a collection of people from all walks of life who get together to worship God, walk our life’s path together and share with each other. So, when we who make up the Church that meets at Bethel struggle, so does Bethel - the macrocosm of the lives of us individuals who call Bethel our spiritual home. So, our Summer Fair serves several purposes - an outreach from Bethel into our local community; a way of raising funds to keep Bethel’s doors open and our many outreaches still wide open to welcome people in to feel the love of God; a way for people to be part of a huge work of the Kingdom of God, in ways perhaps they might never guess. As a Chapel, we tithe (give 10%) of all our income away - so the more we raise, the more we can give to others to push back those boundaries of darkness and let in God’s wonderful light.

If you get chance, please come and see us at the Summer Fair (or any other time come to that!) How lovely a thought, that just by buying a tombola ticket or a burger, you might be impacting someone’s life for good and for God and for eternity. So much more than a Summer Fair fund-raiser isn’t it

Hope to see you soon, Jill x



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The Bethel Mag is also available on our website

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The church in the community, for the community



Sundays

Morning Worship 10.30am
incl. Pathfinders (under 12's)
& Icebreakers (over 12's)

Evening Worship 6.00pm

One Way Club

For 5 - 10 year olds
Monthly on a Saturday, 10.00am - 1.00pm
£2.00 per session



Games, Crafts & Activities

Cancer Peer Support Group

Monthly on last Tuesday of each month
5.30 - 7.30pm



Knit & Natter

From the experienced to the novice,
everyone welcome

Monday 9.30 - 11.30am

Breathe In, Breathe Out

Support group for people living with breathing
difficulties of all kinds, e.g. COPD, Asthma, etc

Monday 1.00 - 3.00pm



Bethel is also available for
Weddings, Christenings and Funerals
For further information please see our
website or contact the church office.

Little Lambs Pre-School Centre



High quality 55 place private pre-school
education within a happy, secure and
stimulating early years environment for
children aged 2½ to 5 years.

Further details and Prospectus available on our
website

Cornerstone

Luncheon Club for Senior Citizens
Wednesday 12.30pm

Free local minibus transport provided if needed

4 course meal
£5.00



Little Acorns Parents/Carers & Toddlers

Play and activities for toddlers and their carers

Thursday 9.30 - 11.15am

£3.00 per session
(incl. refreshments)



Feel Good Friday

Social get together for anyone who wants to have
a cuppa, a chat and play cards, dominoes, etc.

Friday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Friday Night Icebreakers

For 11 - 18 year olds, get together at the end
of the week, play music, games, cook, etc

Friday 7.00 - 9.00pm



Steiner's Crucifixion

The Choral Society at Bethel has a long tradition of performing Steiner's Crucifixion on Good Friday (though occasionally they mix things up with Olivet to Calvary by Maunder) and it was great to be singing together again this year after a Covid enforced break.



Many of us had wondered whether we'd get back together after a few years off - were we out of the habit? Would we remember the words and the music? Would people be prepared to give up the time for rehearsals? We needn't have worried because not only were people keen to get back into the saddle, but we were joined by several new faces (and more importantly, voices).

Almost from the first number we rehearsed everything sounded very nice indeed - it was as if everyone had missed the opportunity to praise the Lord by lifting their voices and now intended to make up for lost time.

As rehearsals went on, Jill found herself saying - 'You know what, we could perform this tonight!' Even when we found ourselves without a tenor soloist with two weeks to go we fell on our feet when we found Simon who had performed it the week before!

The performers and the audience had a most enjoyable evening - so why not come along next year (in either capacity)?



It's gotta be - Roxy!

Clare Jenson

This is our 4 legged friend Roxy and I say 'our' because she has become an important part of our Bethel family over the last 12 months.

She is my 11 year old Staffordshire bull terrier, I started to bring her to church on a Sunday morning after losing my husband Jim last year. I couldn't leave her alone due to separation anxiety so if I had no-one to sit with her it meant I couldn't come to church, Jill told me to bring her with me and I'm so glad she did.

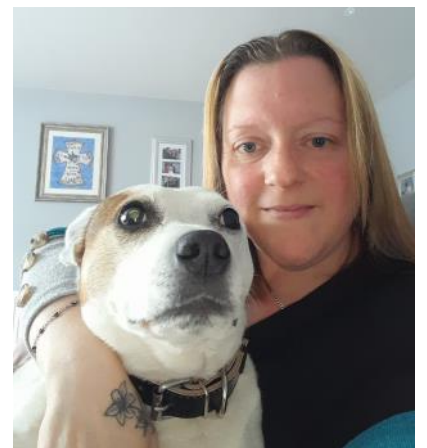
At first Roxy didn't leave my side during the whole service but now she is so comfortable that she goes around everyone to get some fuss, she really does bring so much joy to us all and everyone is so happy to see her - she brings a smile to everyone's face. If for any reason she is not with me on a Sunday I get into trouble so it is safe to say that she is a very loved little lady.



We are so blessed to have her as part of our church, she is like a therapy dog for us all. I watch her when she sees someone for the first time . . . she goes to greet them and I see the smile on their face as they stroke her and talk to her. She will sit by their side enjoying the love and she even gives kisses out occasionally, everyone says how well behaved she is and I have to agree - I really can't fault her, bless her. As soon as we walk into church she goes straight to the kitchen to get her biscuits and whoever is in there knows exactly what she wants, then she will go for her first round of hellos. She goes to the carpet at the front of church to do her roly-polys which makes everyone smile, then once she has done another round of hellos (just in case she missed anyone) I take her up the back to chill on the sofa and she makes herself at home. She has even been a part of prize giving with Jill presenting her with a toy, that was such a proud mommy moment and brought a tear to my eye.

I am truly blessed to be able to have Roxy with me on a Sunday morning, she is my world and I can see how much she means to you all too. I can't thank you all enough for accepting her and loving her as your own. God bless you all

Roxy and Clare



Bella

Jane Hodges

This is Bella. Bella was introduced to the Bethel Family WhatsApp group by Clare, as she used to live near to her previous owner, who unfortunately was taken into hospital for end-of-life care and passed away earlier this year. Clare was therefore desperately looking for a home for Bella, who had been left alone in her home, with daily visits from Clare and her family to look after her. They had been told that Bella didn't like other dogs (and Roxy is also not over keen on her!) and didn't like going out for walks - and another problem was she is extremely overweight, as she was previously fed on whatever her bed-bound owner was eating.



Without a new home to go to, Bella was in danger of having to be put to sleep. However, having tried to find a home for her under these conditions and not having much luck on social media and amongst friends, Clare took her out for a walk, and found that although it was hard going for her, she loved it! She also found that she wasn't too bothered by the other dogs they came across on their walks, so at last there was a spark of hope there.



So, someone from church is a sucker for dogs and cats in need of a new home! Having lost all but one of our previous dogs over the years, the most recent being just before Christmas, there was a big dog shaped hole needing to be filled. We took little Max (a miniature Jack Russell) along to meet Bella on Palm Sunday this year, and they seemed to get on - so the following day Bella came to her new forever home - and she has been an absolute delight.

We were very worried in the early days as we didn't know much about her, and what we found out was previous vets suspected she had a tumour and weren't that optimistic about her health. However, on taking her to our vets, dreading what they might say, there were no tumours detected, although she was over twice the weight she should be - 65kg instead of 30kg! Through her microchip we also found that she was only just over 7, not over 10 as previous vets had said, that she had spent time in the pound in Stoke, she's obviously had quite a few litters of puppies and that her previous owners had rescued her too. And she's a Rhodesian Ridgeback.



She's settled in to her new home so well, she plays so gently with her little brother and they love each other to bits - they both stress when they are not together. She loves to be outside in the garden, to have her tummy rubbed and loves her sleep - taking up most of the bed and having to be coaxed downstairs in a morning.

She's a big snorer too, and has to have pillows under her to help her breathe better at night. She's eating proper dog food now at regular intervals and is already looking in better shape, though still a long way to go. The pain she was in with the arthritis in her joints is getting easier, she can now get up and downstairs so much better, and just needs her ramp to get in and out of the car! She loves to go for a short walk, stands begging at the door when she wants to go, and comes to pick me up from work a couple of times a week when I'm walking in. She has also developed a passion for balls and cuddly toys - but she loves to de-stuff them, so is getting through a fair amount.



We are so blessed to be Bella's new forever pawrents, she really is a golden girl who deserves a chance to be happy for the rest of her days.

Freddie

Jen Anslow

If Roxy is our Sunday meet and greet specialist, then Fred is our weekday welcomer!

If you have visited Bethel on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday during office hours you are sure to have met Fred.

He mainly 'works' in church office where he has three main aspects to his job:

- Number 1 is to keep Jane and Hayley focused by nudging them at regular intervals to make sure they are alert and to receive a treat in return for his good work.
- Number 2 is to meet and greet any visitors to church. Fred 'susses' out all visitors, gives them a good sniff, then wags his tail if he thinks they are OK to come in. Thankfully Fred actually loves all people and hasn't turned anyone away yet!
- Number 3 is a task that Fred has set himself but everyone else tries their hardest to discourage him – it is his 'bin check'. Fred feels it is his duty to care for the environment and stop food waste by checking all bins to ensure that no one has put any food scraps in them. If they have, he will quickly eat them up – no matter what they are, to stop them going to waste!



Fred has two great loves in his life:

The first is food. Sadly, Fred has poorly hips which means that he has to keep his weight right down to keep his joints mobile and healthy. This is difficult when you are a dog that loves food as much as Fred! If he feels particularly hungry, he has been known to think that his need is greater than Steve Bloomer's and steal his lunchtime sandwich if it's left within reach!



His second love is his walks, especially playing with his ball in Wollescote Park. A bonus to his 'job' is that he walks to and from work, his walk home is always through the park where he gets to play with his ball as a reward for working so hard all day.

Fred absolutely loves his job, and really misses all his work friends during the holidays. He would love to come every day, but I think if he worked on a Wednesday the poor Bids would go hungry as Fred would love to sample Lynda's cooking!

Please feel free to pop in to meet Fred, he will make you feel very welcome – especially if you have treats!

Bark in the Park 4



Many thanks to Freida Hadley and Jackie Busby, who ran our stall at this year's Bark in the Park event run by the Friends of Wollescote Park.

It was a beautiful sunny day on Saturday 20th May, when dog lovers from all over the area came together to compete in a fun dog show, along with kids activities, stalls, food and refreshments.



Money raised on the day was to support park projects and local charities.

Well done to FoWP for such a lovely day.



Bethel Memories

By Val Woodhouse

Whatever your feelings about the monarchy, 2023 is an historic year. I think this year's coronation was the fifth in the history of Bethel. There is no indication in the archives of how or indeed if, Bethelites marked each of these occasions. The AGM dated January 1937 records Mr Sidney Wooldridge addressing the meeting and referring to the 'stormy times' the country had experienced in 1936. I suspect that he was including the abdication crisis in his summary. Edward's brother George, father of our late Queen was crowned in May 1937 but the Management Committee minutes indicate that repaying some of the debt on the chapel was uppermost in Bethel's thoughts at that time. Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on a rainy June day in 1953 again, there is no mention in the archives. However, Judith Dickens once



recollected that she had a terrible cold that day so lay on the sofa and listened to it while her future husband Jim was sitting his finals at Birmingham University. Jim went on to become Headteacher at the Sir Gilbert Claughton School in Dudley. He and Judith were lifelong members of Bethel and held in very high esteem in Lye and Wollescote for their selfless service and dedication to the local community.

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to.... Rhyl, Weston, Southport, Trentham Gardens, Alton Towers! Bethel day trips have always been the focus of much excitement, from the 1920's when a charabanc would be hired, to the 1930's when a Midland Red Omnibus was the transport of choice

succeeded by the more luxurious coaches we use nowadays. In Summer 1947 the children were treated to a 'trip by charabanc to Hartlebury Common', they had a good time but were disappointed by the lack of a shop where they could spend their saved half pennies on 'Ambrose' (a popular confection of the time) so the pocket money had to return home with the children! That year the ladies



too, enjoyed an outing on 1st July to the Cotswolds calling at Stratford upon Avon before arriving at Bourton on the Water where they visited the model village. Then on to Evesham where tea was served and after a short stay at Worcester, home was reached at 10.30. The Bethel Day trip has continued through the decades with Llandudno being a popular destination in recent years - indeed this years trip is again to Llandudno, on Friday 25th August. Let us know if you would like to join us!

Bethel Chapel was built in 1900 by poor local people who, because of their faith had a calling to serve the surrounding community 'A stronghold of nonconformity' is how the Stourbridge Gazette described Bethel Chapel in the summer of 1931. Bethel was the first

Nonconformist church to host the Lye and Wollescote Urban District Council Civic Sunday Service. It was deemed a great honour, of which Bethel was justly very proud. The gazette went on to commend the way Bethel identified itself *'with the community life within the area'* and praised the *'extent of the sacrifices which have ungrudgingly been made by a poor people who held a great love for their church.'*



Summer is synonymous with the Fayre in Bethel speak, or the Bazaar as it was formerly known. In Summer 1991 it was publicised as a Strawberry Fayre but unfortunately that year strawberries were scarce due to poor weather conditions, leaving chapel facing the possibility of a strawberry fayre without strawberries but with lots of rain.

God did not let us down; a strawberry farm was found which picked and packed the strawberries for us, the rain held off and the princely sum of £1,516.32 was raised on the day.

Staying with the 1990's. one wet Friday afternoon in June 1992 the Pathfinders held a sponsored bounce as a pre-Fayre fundraiser with John Weston very kindly fetching the state-of-the-art Bouncing Activity Castle for the participants. The rain came down, the castle went up and the children went up and down! For £5 sponsorship they could bounce to their hearts content on the multi roomed wonder, or fifty pence would buy you a single go. Adults too, managed to fit in their own bouncy session. For those with any stomach left a tuck shop was available too. A good time was had by all and around £400 was raised towards the Fayre total. The fayre day itself was great success too, fabulous weather prompted Glenda to describe the day as 'fun in the Sun with the Son' although it was a bit of a wash out of a day for Steve Bloomer who had spent the morning washing cars and the afternoon having wet sponges thrown at him.



Because we are a fully independent church, we have to raise one hundred per cent of our funds to operate all of the community facilities we offer and maintain the buildings. Fundraising for a building may seem unglamorous but I would strongly argue that the value of the chapel to the area is priceless. As with any church it is one of the few large spaces available to a local community that is not under local authority control, therefore, has flexibility as to how the space can be used to serve the community. Since this current building opened in 1900, Bethel has served the community as a school dinner hall, a firewatchers station, a local concert venue, a social and sports club, a men's club during the 1930's depression, children's holiday clubs and polling station to name but a few. All these things have been available to the entire community regardless of whether they have any faith or non. Secondly, a church building is a footprint on the landscape, a beacon where people can head to when they need help or comfort. The chapel has extended Jesus' hospitality to those knocking the door in desperation, those popping in for a chat because they just want to see a cheerful face and have some company and a myriad of other reasons in between.

If you can, please do come and join us on Saturday 1st July for this year's Summer Fayre, it is always a fabulous community day. Yes, bag a bargain because there will be plenty to be had, but most importantly come because you are welcome. You won't be disappointed.



BETHEL SUMMMER COACH TRIP



LLANDUDNO

Friday 25th August 2023

Adults - £18 each, Children - £10 each
£5 deposit to secure your seat

*Leaving from depot at 8.00am or from Bethel at 8.15am
Returning from Llandudno at 5.00pm*

Happy Retirement Val

After being employed by Bethel as our Projects Co-ordinator since October 2010, Val Woodhouse took the decision to retire at the end of February 2023.

Val will be much missed by everyone who works at Bethel, and by the Cornerstone staff and bids, who she has also looked after for all that time too.



We are very grateful for all the input Val has had over the years -

- making sure that the building is in a wonderful condition by liaising with a variety of architectural professionals and tradespeople on the various inspections and legal requirements to make sure we are in a good solid position to go into our future;
- applying for grants and other sources of funding to enable work to be done on the premises and for us to put on all the events and regular activities that we do;
- looking after our historical records and being fascinated in them enough to be able to have a wonderful knowledge of what is in them and be able to turn up obscure facts at the drop of a hat; plus all the many and varied other things she has done for Bethel over the years - we would not be where we are now without you Val!



Although Val's last official day in the office was at the end of February, it was during half term week, so there were very few people around at the time. So we got John to bring her back in for the Cornerstone Coronation celebrations, in order to be able to say a proper 'thank you, all the best, we love you' from everyone. We wish Val and John a very happy retirement, having time now to spend on the things they love to do, including more time with their lovely family.

Of course, they are both still very much an integral part of Bethel and we look forward to going onto the next chapter with them.



If you go along to visit Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent in Quarry Bank High Street, you may notice that there are now 2 shops with the BTHS signage above them, right next door to each other. A little while ago the lease on the 'new' shop became available after the previous occupants 'disappeared', so on-the-ball Mariann had her eyes on it straight away for an expansion!

The new shop will have room for more sales items, with slightly larger items (e.g. chairs, side tables, etc.) able to be displayed. Still a little work needing to be done on it, but if you go over you will be sure of a warm welcome and a nice cuppa to go with it!

A reminder that since Mariann broke her wrist, the shop is on reduced opening hours. Please check our website - www.bethelchapel.net/bethel-treasures/ or our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100048390226944 for updates of when this changes back to the usual hours.

The logo for Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent, featuring the words "BETHEL TREASURES" in a serif font, "Heaven Scent" in a cursive script, a white dove on a cross, and a small illustration of sheep.

190-191 High Street, Quarry Bank, DY5 2AB

A reminder that the shop is on reduced opening hours at the moment please call in any day they are open, you will be made most welcome
Tuesdays 11am - 2pm - Wednesdays & Fridays 11am - 3pm

Flower Arranging Afternoon

A lovely afternoon of flower arranging took place in church in May, organised by Clare Robson and lead by one of our Little Lambs Nursery Assistants, Tammy Jones, who is also a trained florist.

A group of a dozen ladies came together and watched a demonstration and then made their own flower arrangement to take home with them.

A lovely array of displays were made, with some finding their hidden flower talents!

We're now hoping that their new found confidence will result in a few extra names being added to the flower arranging rota for church in the near future!!

Well done ladies 🌸



Thank You to Church— from an old Icebreaker

When I open the news sheet to read and pray through, I am amazed at what God is doing through Bethel in our community. The outreach work to people of all ages is truly inspiring and it is a privilege to be able to call Bethel my “home church.”

I became a Christian when I was 13 because my friend, Samantha Harvey, invited me to come and join the youth group, Icebreakers. I got to hear that God loved and wanted a relationship with me and I wouldn't be where I am in my faith if it wasn't for that initial invitation. The investment in time made through my youth worker, Sandra Bloomer, and others made sure that young people like me, got to hear about Jesus and make a decision to follow Him for themselves.



Samantha Harvey and Catherine Green at Greenbelt (mid 1990's)

Today we have many adults in church who are committed to serving children and young people through groups like Icebreakers (Friday night and Sunday morning), Pathfinders, One Way, Little Lambs and Little Acorns as well as the many special events like pottery painting, parties, social activities and prize giving that take place so that children and young people have fun, feel valued and hear the gospel in a relevant way.

A desire to see other young people reached led me to work for a national Christian Charity - Youth for Christ, where I have been for nearly 20 years. Youth for Christ seek to “take the Good News relevantly to every young person in Britain”. That is a big aim but after more than 75 years of service Youth for Christ is still going and we currently have around 60 centres and projects serving young people in their local communities through the support of local churches.

I serve the Youth for Christ team at a national level helping to support these ministries. For many young people “Youth for Christ” is their initial engagement with the local church. It is through going into schools, running youth clubs, running detached youth work in parks and other locations and much more that young people, are hearing about Jesus.

Youth for Christ sent out a recent appeal where we shared how youth workers in one of our local projects set up a foodbank as young people were coming along to a group hungry. The young people needed practical support and it was an opportunity to show God's love by providing them with food. It also highlights some of the growing challenges in this country around the cost of living and choices some families are facing. Here at Bethel we are used to providing practical support for

example “Feel Good Friday” now provides a safe warm place for people to come and socialise. Youth for Christ are doing much the same.

We are in a challenging season as a nation financially. Bethel needs our support and all of us are feeling the impact of the increase in living costs. But I truly believe that God’s resources don’t run out, he simply invites us to partner with Him every day using what we have and I know that at Bethel we do.

Myself and the Youth for Christ team also need your help. Like many other charities, we have been impacted by a drop in giving following the Covid pandemic. I have a team of supporters who support me prayerfully and financially in my work, many of whom are from Bethel. I am so grateful for your generosity enabling me to do what I do but I need to honestly say at present Youth for Christ need an immediate increase in support for our work.

Prayer underpins everything so please would you pray for children and young people - for those in your own lives, here at Bethel, in our nation and the work of Youth for Christ. If you feel that you can help further and would like to partner with me or get in touch with me to talk more, I have a website page that you can visit for more information yfc.co.uk/team/catherinegreen.

I am so grateful to Bethel for all you do for young people. From one “old Icebreaker” thank you.

Catherine Green.

Enjoy some photos of a 13 year old me (and a few others) in Icebreakers.



From left to right Zena Prentice, Shelley Cartwright, Samantha Harvey, Catherine Green and Gemma Cole getting ready for the splash in our baptism robes



Baptism Day 1994 being interviewed by Sandra Bloomer



Coronation Celebrations - Past and Present



Some of our ladies shared photos from the last Coronation for the late Queen back in 1953, it seems everyone was dressing up for the Queen!



Di Hughes and family (Di is the Queen!)



Janet Cartwright - aged 11, fortune teller



Laraine Baggott - as a fairy - at the Castle Inn, Balds Lane, celebrations



Laraine Baggott's souvenirs from 1953 Coronation - colour picture book, the brooch her mother wore on the day, and plate and teacup & saucer given by school.

For the King's coronation this May, all areas of church celebrated.

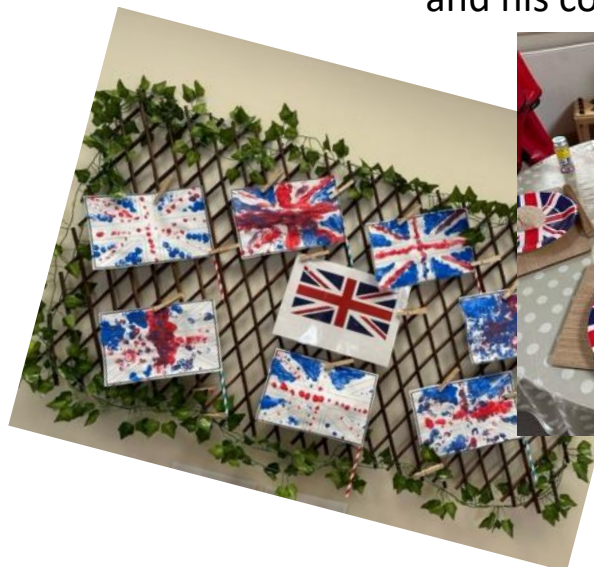
Bethel Treasures Heaven Scent had a special window display, along with bunting out in the shop.



Little Acorns had a party day and had red white and blue coloured rice to play with - see the before and after photos! They also had special crown crafts and cakes.



Little Lambs celebrated with union flag and crown crafts, making play dough cakes, playing with small world coronation scenes and lots of books about our new King and his coronation, along with a party too.





At church on the Sunday we had lots of fun, the Pathfinders decorated some cakes and meringues for the cake table and did coronation crafts, they sang a special coronation song in church and then some of us stayed for a picnic lunch on the lawn afterwards.



And then there was a special afternoon tea for all the bids at Cornerstone, with the tables decorated beautifully to go with all the delightful finger food and desserts that had been prepared

Wonderful celebrations were had by all our groups, which will hopefully be remembered as fondly by our children as the children in the 1953 pictures remembered the last Coronation.



Little Lambs try the Good Life

On the 9th May the children from Little Lambs, their teachers and their parents (or grandparents) visited Sue and Jonathan's allotment to see where fruit and veg really comes from. This has been going on for at least 4 years now and it's beginning to work like a reasonably well oiled machine.

The weather was kind (the forecasted rain didn't come until the second group were getting ready to leave) and even though it was too early for the children to taste any of the produce (they'll have to wait until their visit in September for that) there was still plenty to do.

Planting Sunflowers; smelling the different herbs; seeing the worms in the compost; fishing for newts; picking rhubarb; looking for 'Freddy the Fish'; jumping in the mulch and a general walk around the plot kept them entertained for a good hour and they were all able to leave with their pots in their hands.



Stambermill Guides and Brownies have vacancies for girls who are looking to do something different on a Friday evening

You can be active

You can be creative!

Come and join Brownies

Girls age 7-10

Do you want to learn new skills?

You can make friends and have adventures

Do you want to have lots of fun?

Your nearest Brownie unit is

1st Stambermill Brownies
Timmis Road
Dy9 7bq
07599842862

Register your interest by visiting
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
or you can ring
Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901

Brownies – girls age 7-10

During the meetings the girls have the opportunity to have lots of fun doing a wide range of activities including:-

- Learning new skills like making crafty things and maybe cooking.
- Girls are encouraged to be active by playing games.
- Exploring the arts through musical activities such as singing.
- Completing a wide range of interest badges.
- Making new friends.

Guides – girls age 10-14

Each term a different program is undertaken and include a wide range of activities both inside and outside where we meet.

Including:-

- Learning new skills, such as crafts, cooking and completing interest badges.
- Enjoying the outdoors through camping: adventure days to take in such thing as archery; zip wire and much more.
- Exploring the arts through musical activities; theatre trips; film nights; drama.
- Day trips to places like the Black Country Museum and Dudley Zoo.
- Making new friends.

You can be creative!

Do you want to learn new skills?

COME AND JOIN US

Girls age 10-14

Your nearest Guide unit is

1st Stambermill Guides
Timmis Road
Stourbridge
DY9 7BQ

Register your interest by visiting
www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus
or you can ring
Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901

You can make friends and have adventures

You can be active

You can make a change

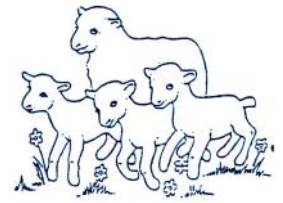
PEACE

LOVE

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT

A Success Story

(tinged with sadness for Little Lambs!)



It is with much sadness that in July, Little Lambs will be saying 'Goodbye' to a much-cherished member of staff – Chloe Bridge.

Chloe began her journey at Little Lambs during her school Work Placement with us, back on 1st July 2013. She must have enjoyed it as she has been with us off and on ever since! Chloe went from school to complete a childcare course at Halesowen College, beginning in September 2014, where she needed a placement for two days each week – thankfully for us she chose to return to Little Lambs! After the first year of the course had finished, Chloe decided that an apprenticeship would be a more beneficial route to a career in childcare and Little Lambs were more than happy to take her on. And so began her career with us..... She successfully completed her apprenticeship, and just as she qualified, a vacancy arose for a Key Person role with us – of course Chloe fitted the bill perfectly!



Chloe's first staff photo in 2015

She built such wonderful relationships with all the children and parents that she has worked with over the years and showed such confidence and skill in her role that she was promoted to Senior Practitioner in January 2022.

In September 2020 Chloe chose to further her professional development by completing a part time Foundation Degree in Early Years, then continuing to gain her BA Honours in Integrated Working with Children and Families, which she completed with flying colours this year. Understandably, Chloe has chosen to continue her professional development and



Chloe at her graduation last year

complete her Teacher Training qualification, and sadly for us she cannot do this in an Early Years setting. So, Chloe's success is tinged with sadness as now she has her 'wings' and we have to allow her to fly.



Auntie Chloe and Auntie Maureen helping out Santa at a Christmas Fayre

We would like to thank Chloe from the bottom of our hearts for her hard work, loyalty and laughter that she has brought to Little Lambs over her many years with us. She will be sorely missed but I'm sure she will fly in her career as a teacher and will bring sunshine to the lives of all the children she teaches.

We wish you all the very best and God bless xxx

(P.S. Please come back and see us often!)

SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 1st July
12.00 noon

Including:

Grand Prize Draw

Bottle Tombola

Gifts

Toy Stall

Games

Plant Stall

Homemade Cake Stall

Refreshments, including Barbecue

Strawberry Fayre

Plus lots more to see and do

Entrance free

**Bethel Chapel &
Little Lambs Pre-School Centre
Hill Street, Wollescote
DY9 8TL**

