



“Great to see you!” It’s great to be able to welcome you to Bethel, we’re so glad you could join us! If you’ve been here for years, or if you’re relatively new or brand new - we hope you can feel right at home with us. **Venue Change** Please note that *this morning* we will be having our service in the *Whitchurch Centre* to allow Livewires to practice for their Nativity in the Church. We will all *start together* in the *Whitchurch Centre* and then the children will move over to the church.

This Week

Christmas Complin Journey continues tonight and will be exploring the theme of the peace of God. Services will be at 6pm and repeated at 7.15 pm.

Christmas Postbox –This is the *last day* for you to post cards to your friends in Bethel. If you would prefer to address a card to the whole congregation, it can be put up in the noticeboard in the lounge and a donation can be made for the money you would have spent on cards and postage. Cards will be available to collect on the *16th and 23rd December*.

Donations and Christmas Day Offering The money collected from your donations for the postbox and also the Christmas day offering will be going this year to a bursary fund organised by Rock UK to fund young people to attend youth camps that their families are unable to afford.

Carols By Candlelight Refreshments If you can donate some mince pies or cakes (bought or home-made) please sign up on the sheet in the lounge. The service is *on Sunday 23rd December at 6 pm*. Many thanks.

Christmas Reading Plan This started last week. (*3rd December*) There are 5 readings for every week to prepare for and lead up to Christmas.

Leaders Meeting *Monday 10th December at 7.30 pm in the lounge*. Please pray for the minister, elders and deacons as they meet together.

No Kidzone *Tuesday 11th December*, due to clashes with various school concerts and events.

UHW Carol Concert Lord willing, there will be a carol concert in *UHW concourse* on *Tuesday December 11th 6.30pm – 7.05pm*. If you are able to help by doing a reading, playing an instrument or chatting to patients please let Sarah Hodges know.

Pop Up Nativity *Sat 15th December, 10.30am*. Calling all angels, shepherds and kings. Bring the family and dress the little ones as their favourite nativity character, ready for a morning of puppets, games, crafts, snacks and a nativity play where the stars of the show are the toddlers!

Come and join the fun at a *Christmas Fair at the Summit Centre on Saturday 15th December*. Between *10am to 3pm* there will be Christmas Stalls, Children’s crafts, a festive family walk to the lakes, free aerial adventure, meet the dinky donkeys, tasty treats in the cafe and lots more. We are also in need of some carol singers. If you are able to help out please speak to Ruth Evans or email Ruth.evans@rockuk.org

Next Week.

Livewires Nativity *Sunday morning service 16th December*. The Livewires will be sharing the Christmas story with us in their Nativity on the above date.

Sharing The Joy of Christmas at Children's Hospital -After a successful visit to the children's ward on Easter Sunday, we have been invited to do the same for Christmas. Some families will visit UHW on *Sunday 16th December at 2pm* where they will give a small gift and share the Joy of Jesus to others. If you would like to know more about this please speak to Sarah or Richard Hodges or Lynda Williams.

Communion in December will be *in the evening of the 16th December* (instead of the usual pattern we follow).

Future Dates for your Diary

Carols by Candlelight Practice *Wednesday 19th December* in the church for all musicians involved in the service.

Christmas Day -On *Christmas Day* we will be having an all-together service from 10.30-11.15 am when the children will also be able to share with us the gifts they have received.

Christmas Dates -Please see the separate flyer in the newsheet re important Christmas dates for this year. Just to let you know (as in previous years) that there will be **no evening service** on *Sunday 30th December*.

Heol Don Service Please note that the service at Heol Don will be on the *8th* rather than the *1st January 2019*.

Adult Alpha Course at Bethel *starting on Thursday 17th January. In the Church Lounge each week at 7.30 pm*. The team will also meet for a run through practise on *Thursday 10th January at 7.30 pm*. While the course is held for people who are thinking about faith and are questioning what life is about, anyone in Bethel who wants to attend and find out more are very welcome. See Ken Williams if you are interested.

Joint Ecumenical Service *Sunday 20th January at 6pm at Whitchurch Methodist Church*. We will be joining with other churches in the local area in a service of Prayer for Christian Unity Week.

No Evening Service *Sunday 27th January*. We will be supporting the launch of the Worship Community at the Summit Centre on this evening.

Other News/Information

Baptism If anyone is interested in baptism or would like to find out more, please speak to Jon.

Christmas Greetings from Ethiopia (Kale Heywet Church) “We thank God for our brothers and sisters in Wales. Out of your faithful generosity this year lives are being changed. Over the past year we have seen self-help groups trained, equipped and growing in confidence in their work with communities. We’ve also hosted overseas visitors who have come to learn from the self-help approach. What a blessing to share this with others”. From Bethel £930 has been sent to set up self-help groups in South West Ethiopia.