

**Welcome to Bethlehem Methodist Church**  
**Rev. Deborah G Poole**  
**Deacon Sally Wheadon**  
**Email : [sallyannewheadon@gmail.com](mailto:sallyannewheadon@gmail.com)**  
**Telephone : 491877**  
**Website: [bethlehem.org.je](http://bethlehem.org.je)**

### **Sunday 13th September 2020**

**At Church – 10.30am – Harvest Sunday – Preacher,** Deacon Sally Wheadon with Eric as Worship Leader

Please remember there is guidance in place for attending worship – sign in sheet, hand sanitiser, social distancing & NO singing being the main ones.

This year for Harvest Sunday we are not able to collect fresh produce but are collecting tins and dried food to donate to the Grace Trust food bank.

**(Next week 20<sup>th</sup> September) – Preacher, Revd Nico Hilmy-Jones Worship Leader, Ali Steward, Barbara J Laptop, Brenda Flowers, Doreen R**

**Online Service – From 10.30am–** This week's service will be taken by our new Superintendent and Chair of District – Revd Dawn Saunders.

You can access the broadcast on:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLapCu7RqUoebklgouaAkDA> and click into the service.

It will be available from 10.30am on the Sunday but you can watch it any time at your convenience after that. The order of service is attached to the email.

**Coffee** - The staff invite you to a scheduled Zoom meeting “**After Service Coffee and Chat.**” You can join by clicking into <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87800110669?pwd=TjZzdVhLU0FWcndPT2V2amo3VTRoQT09>

- Meeting ID: 878 0011 0669
- Password: Coffee

### **Bethlehem Family**

#### **Weekly Prayer meeting**

Zoom themselves require that if using the link to access the meeting, you now need to be signed into your Zoom account. If you are not, you will be presented with a message saying 'This meeting is for authorized attendees only' If this happens you need to click on the 'sign in' box and enter the email address and password you used to set up your Zoom account.

Finally, when Zoom asks you to update your account for security reasons, you must do this, otherwise it will cause problems for you when trying to access meetings.

#### **Bethlehem Prayer Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87351600511?pwd=OTBUdDBxKzdDb0h3bzhXUGh2aXBWdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5160 0511

Password: Bethlehem

**By Telephone** - Dial 0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 873 5160 0511#

Participant ID #

Password: 690246#

---

### **Report from Wednesday's prayer meeting:** 09 September 2020

**This week we gave thanks that God** is with us wherever we go and for being able to meet by Zoom. We also gave thanks for warm sunny days, fresh air and the garden service that took place at Sandybrook; we prayed for God to bless the activity co-ordinator there. We thanked God for the giving out of the Messy Church bags and asked God to bless the families who will use them, that they may learn together. We gave thanks for Margaret being able to take Melanie out again and asked God to protect and bless them both. We thanked God for Sheila being able to have a good conversation with Beryl A and for the opportunity to be able to visit Beryl soon. We also gave thanks for Glenys' watch being found and the opportunity to witness to answered prayer. We lifted to God all members of our church family who are ministering to and supporting others at this time. We thanked God for time spent with Heidi Snr and prayed a blessing upon her and all who are unable to attend currently that they will be back with us soon.

**We prayed for** Frank, Alice and Phillip to know God's presence and for good friends to support them at this time. We prayed for safe travelling and protection for Paul and Dianne; for Wilma and her husband in Holland and for Mike and Jen who are also away. Among those who are ill we prayed for Beryl R; for Katie's friend who hospital appointment got cancelled and another friend in the UK with Huntington's disease and for Matthew who is part of Sheila's family who has had a cycling accident. We gave thanks that Doreen R's friend is making good progress and also that Glenys' friend is restored to health. We prayed for Philippa and her family who are supporting her mum currently; for Katie's new neighbours and all the people in that neighbourhood including Mansell and Dianne; for Wilma's dad to have peace and acceptance; for Caro and family and for perseverance and protection for Caro as she starts the final leg of the Local Preachers course. We prayed for God to give us days of rest to enjoy the island and for us to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit; for our harvest festival on Sunday and those leading the service and for St Ouen Methodist Church who are re-opening on Sunday for the first time.

**In the world we prayed** a blessing on all children returning to school, especially those at Le Quennevais and for all children and teachers to be kept safe; for wisdom for the States of Jersey and UK government in their decision making; for protection for medical staff and health workers and all who have to cope with people who break the social isolation rules; for people to observe the restrictions; for all groups of society who are being blamed for the current outbreak and for the reason why Covid is spreading to come to light; for all parents and carers coping with the teenage years and for teenagers to engage in life giving things; for persecuted Christians especially in North Korea and Afghanistan; for people to share their difficulties so that we can support them and for us to be good neighbours; for all the churches and ministries going on here on the island; for an outbreak of witness and evangelism and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that people may be saved.

**Harvest – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September** - unfortunately, we will not be able to receive any fresh or perishable goods this year. However, the Grace Trust is now receiving tinned and dried food again and have put out a request for donations. So, people are welcome to bring dried and tinned food which we can make into a display for harvest or, if you prefer, you can make a monetary donation instead. We suggest you put such donations in an envelope marked 'harvest' to keep it separate from the Sunday offering. The Grace Trust will collect everything from the church. The church will be open on the Saturday of harvest weekend but, if you prefer, you can bring your gifts on the Sunday, or indeed, any Sunday from now on. Thank you.

**Our Film nights are back!** We will resume on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September**, with **FILM ONLY, at 7.30p.m.** This month's film is 'The Way', the story of a grieving father who embarks on the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St James) and meets other pilgrims, all looking for greater meaning in their lives. "Moving and uplifting". All are welcome. There will be a collection for Grace Trust.

### **Updates from the Methodist Circuit Office**

The circuit newsletter is attached to the email.

## Other Items

Thank you to Doreen and Jimmy for assisting Ina to attend her classes.

Wilma has let us know that we received a letter from Vini Jones from the Grace Trust thanking her for the money raised (about £850.00 or maybe more) from the production of the Face Masks. He also added that their Food bank returned to their premises in Lewis Street. Additionally, they are taking steps to find out when they can operate some of their projects and get together as soon as it is safe to do so. As it will be good to come alongside the more vulnerable and lonelier on a regular basis.

Dianne and Paul would like to thank everyone who sponsored them on the recent Bible Society walk. They survived the 26 miles, and actually enjoyed most of it! The donations amounted to £350. Thank you all.

## Bethlehem Prayer Focus

### Please pray for :

- The World, Jersey, our Bethlehem family, all our extended families here and far away, as we learn to deal with this awful Corona Virus pandemic and the restrictions imposed on everyone.
- Those who live alone and those who live with families in confined spaces
- Those who used to be part of our fellowship but are no longer able to worship with us due to frailty or ill health, we pray for God's healing touch to be upon them.
- We continue to pray for healing for all our Church Family and their families, who are struggling with ill health. Lord we pray that you will be with each one of them and give them Your Healing and Strength.
- All who have been recently bereaved, we think especially of Frank, Alice and Philip and all their family and friends, as the Lord has taken Christine to be with Him. No more pain and suffering. We pray that they would know the peace and comfort of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

**Cynthia has asked that we continue to pray for the Leprosy Mission** - Dear Lord and Heavenly Father We unite to pray for a hedge of protection around all the Leprosy Hospitals and around all the staff who are helping these vulnerable people. At the moment, the hospitals are free from the Corona Virus and we pray that this would continue to be so. The suffering and alienation the people with Leprosy have to endure from their families who cast them out, and the places where they live is already intolerable. Father we place this situation in your hands and ask for your mercy and grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

## **PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL**

- Please Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6) ·
- For the people of Israel to come to know their Messiah, Yeshua (Psalm 40:7; Isaiah 53)
- For her borders to be secure (Exodus 23:31a)
- For Jerusalem to be protected from being divided (Joel 3:2) ·
- For God to keep a watchful eye over His People, and bind the schemes and resources of their enemies so they can do them no harm (Zechariah 12:1-5; Psalm 91)

## **PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – No 35 on the World list is Kazakhstan**

The World Watch List is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians experience the most extreme persecution.

### **How many Christians are there in Kazakhstan?**

There are 4.8 million Christians in Kazakhstan, which is just over a quarter of the population of 18.6 million. Most of these are Russian Orthodox Christians, who suffer less persecution because they seldom interact with the Kazakh population. Kazakh Christians from a Muslim background face the most persecution.

## **Why are Christians persecuted in Kazakhstan?**

The government in Kazakhstan is constantly working to increase its control over the whole of society, and religious freedom is restricted by legislation dating back to 2011. No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed – and members of Protestant churches are considered foreign enemies. Illegal, unregistered churches are often raided.

Meet Bahtor (Name changed for security reasons) : “I really was persecuted when I became a believer, as a Muslim.”BAHTOR, KAZAKHSTAN

## **What's life like for Christians in Kazakhstan?**

Christians from Muslim backgrounds often have to keep their faith secret, as they face huge pressure from their families and communities if their new faith is discovered. Some converts are locked up by their families for long periods, beaten and may eventually be expelled from their communities.

That includes people like Bahtor: “Because we live in close communities, every person is under control. If somebody changes his faith it's a betrayal of his community. They say, ‘You started to believe in the Russian God and many problems are coming.’ So, that's why they kicked me out of the community.”

## **How can I help Christians in Kazakhstan**

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Kazakhstan. Your gifts and prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Open Doors strengthens persecuted Christians in Central Asia through Christian literature, training, relief aid, advocacy support and socio-economic development projects.

## **PLEASE PRAY:**

Lord, please change the hearts of those in power in Kazakhstan. We pray that You show them Your power, love and goodness, and that they would cease to stand in the way of Your children worshipping You in freedom and truth.

## **Birthday Greetings for this coming week:**

Wilma (15<sup>th</sup>) and Sue K (18<sup>th</sup>)  
Happy Birthday to you both, May Our Lord Bless you.

## **Room Requirements**

If anybody needs to use the Bethany room on a Saturday or in the evenings or the Sunday School Hall at any time - A booking should be made by contacting a steward, they also need to be advised of the dates that any groups may be meeting in ANY of our rooms/Church at any time.

## **House Groups - Most house Groups are suspended for now**

Tuesday (fortnightly) - St Ouen Contact: Mary Richardson (483020)

Tuesday (weekly) - St Mary Contact: Eric Lucas (483599)

Tuesday (weekly) - 10.45am - 12.30pm in Bethany Room - This is a House group that explores Scripture from a Jewish understanding viewpoint' - ALL ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US! Contact: Jean Schooling 07797 841414 - **This group has resumed in the Hall from 11.00 until 12.30.**

Thursday (weekly) - St Peter Contact Katie Norman (482364) If you do not already attend a house group, how about giving it a try.

## **Our Stewards**

Dianne Huddleston (483917) : Glenys Best (766020) : Barbara Jacobs (481192)

**Concerned?** - If you have any concerns about anything to do with church life please contact one of the stewards.

**Caretakers** - Fernando & Raquel de Almeida Tel 864520

**Notices** should be sent (by Wednesday) to email : bethlehem-notices@hotmail.com or by post to Brenda De Oliveira, Flat 1, Elmwood, Les Hamonnets, St John JE3 4FP