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BEULAH CROSSROADS BEULAH

# **CHURCH NOTES**

hristmas and New Year have come and gone, and we marked the occasions in many and varied ways. It is impossible to thank everyone individually, but we are very grateful to all who contributed to the many services and activities. including worship leaders, musicians, flower arrangers, Junior Church Leaders and children, catering experts and the Social Group. Thanks also to those involved with the production of the Advent Writings booklets which provided us with some thoughtful and inspiring reflections. The theme for Advent was 'Conversations' and this was cleverly reflected in the evolving art work on Canolfan wall, created by Jo Jones. The intention was to encourage people to talk about what they saw, and think more deeply about the coming of Christ into the world.

Further opportunities in 2019 to continue and develop such conversations will be found through the focus of the new theme, which you may know by now is, 'Flowing streams, bringing life.'; in our Lent Study sessions when we will come together with other URCs in Cardiff: in conversations around the book of Colossians during Bible Month which Vera is organising for us, and on retreat in Caldey. Each Wednesday at 10.30am, at Meeting Point, a small group gathers in the church to discuss, reflect and pray a wonderful opportunity for conversations to develop in all kinds of ways. A warm welcome is extended to anyone to pop in and join them. We have also been invited to conversations ecumenically by the Revd. Phil Dunning, who is organising a 'Why?' course at Bethany and would be pleased to welcome anyone who is interested in joining these discussions. Perhaps we could find time as well to think about our conversations with God and how we pray, in church together, or when alone. Conversations are also at the heart of our Pastoral work – sitting alongside those who are going through difficult times, listening to what they say and sharing with them is a great privilege, even when we are not sure what the 'right' thing to say might be! Like many, I have been greatly helped by the support of friends and

elders in Beulah when we have walked through darker times, deeply grateful for acts of kindness and words of encouragement. There are no 'qualifications' in church for pastoral work, but we all get better at it by doing it, and not being afraid to reach out. The listening part of such conversations is perhaps the most important, and some of these conversations may not need many words.

### FAMILY NEWS

As a church family we try to support each other through life's ups and downs. Several people have experienced bereavement over recent weeks, so we hold all of them in our thoughts and prayers. These include Angharad Stevenson whose father has died; Carol Coleman, Barbara Clargo and Joyce Mathias, all of whom have lost a sister: and Joan Staddon whose sister-in-law has died. To them, their families, and all others suffering the loss of relatives or friends. we send our deepest sympathy. Other members and friends are going through difficult times with health problems. We particularly think of

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### **Church Secretary:**

Mrs Louise Morgan

**Church Treasurer:** Mrs Barbara Rhys,

email: secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

Visit us at...... http://www.beulahurc.org.uk/

#### ... from p.2

those who have received treatment in hospital or at home, or are awaiting hospital admission, including Anne Thomas, Marg Jones, Alex Quinlan, Joan Staddon, Jean Yardley, Heather Coles, Vera Williams, Glenys Scott, Elinor Ludlow, Mary Warsop and Margaret Johns. There are others, too, who are facing very difficult situations, and they also are assured of our love and concern.

It is lovely to be able to share good news with the Beulah family and we have a number of reasons to celebrate this month. We are delighted to announce the arrival of a new grandson for Liz and Neil Kidd. Baby Wesley was born at the end of November, so congratulations are sent to Fiona, Anthony and Pearl at this happy time. Several people have celebrated special birthdays recently, including Cyril Cazenave and his daughter Sarah Webb, who enjoyed a double celebration just before Christmas. This week it was Alice Cheer's 21st birthday - to all these, and others that I haven't got to know about, we send our very best wishes.

Every blessing for the coming year, *Louise.* 

# Operation Christmas Child

I know that it seems a long time now since you packed a box. Christmas has long gone now the Easter eggs have appeared in the shops. However I couldn't let the opportunity to express my gratitude to everybody who contributed to this appeal. I would just like to mention by name Lynne Davies who must have a master degree in wrapping boxes. I know a lot of you are grateful that you don't have to wrap the box. I know I am. It's the one thing I'm not keen on where the boxes are concerned. I must also mention Colin who does all the transporting of our shoeboxes, and Ann who made scarves and helped with the sorting of boxes. A big thank you to all who knitted, donated gifts and money and of course packed a shoebox. This year we sent 103 shoeboxes, 2 more than last year. We were congratulated on the quality and quantity of our boxes by the warehouse. Unfortunately some churches have had to stop donating due to falling numbers in their congregations . So thank you all for your generosity. Over 16,000 shoeboxes were sent from South East Wales to Liberia, Romania and Belarus. We are an important part of an incredible appeal. Thank you so much. Beulah is so generous. We have brought a little joy into a child's life.

Love Elaine

# <u>'Things I would</u> <u>like to know'</u>

• ommunication was Gidentified as one of our priorities during the consultation stage of the Transitional Ministry process. A group was set up in September 2017 to explore this theme and identify areas to improve or innovate. This group reported back to Elders and Church Meeting in the latter part of 2018, and a number of their recommendations were approved to take further. A refreshed Communications group was then set up to look in more detail at our communications and to find ways of implementing recommendations. One suggestion that has come out the early meetings of this group is to set up a 'Things I would like to know' column in Crossroads (based on the 'What Now?' page of the Consultations booklet.) Exactly how to manage it is still being explored, but we thought we would begin by addressing the first of the questions that are quoted in the booklet:

#### What is Synod?

The URC is 'a family of Christians, worshipping in the name of Jesus in about 1500 local churches from Orkney to Cornwall.' (URC website : www.urc.org.uk)

The basic structure of the URC consists of 3 councils: the local Church *cont p.4...* 

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(and Elders') Meetings; the regional Synods and General Assembly. (plus Mission Council)

The URC web site explains that the Synods are regional administrative groupings of churches that administer churches at a regional level, and have oversight from a Synod Moderator.

There are 13 Synods in the United Reformed Church. Wales comprises one of these, as does Scotland, with the remaining being regions of England.

The United Reformed Church in Wales is made up of 91 local congregations, half of whom are in Local Ecumenical partnerships. All these churches belong to the National Synod of Wales which carries out its work through a variety of councils and boards, which recently underwent restructuring. Beulah is now served by the Cardiff and Penarth Regional Pastoral Committee, with our representative being Derek Evans.

The Synod Meeting takes place twice a year to which each church is invited to send a representative. Much of the Synod's work is carried out and coordinated by the Synod Pastoral Committee Meeting, together with others, including the Mission & Discipleship Board and the Finance and Property Board. The Synod is also served by a number of staff officers: the Synod Moderator, Synod Clerk, Synod Treasurer, two Training and Development Officers, an Ecumenical Officer. Children and Youth Development Officer (CYDO) and a Property Officer. The current Moderator of the Synod of Wales is the Reverend Simon Walkling.

You will remember that we tried to address this question by inviting the Synod Clerk, the Reverend Adrian Bulley to the February Church Meeting last year. Adrian gave a very full and comprehensive explanation of the structure of the URC, especially explaining the new structure in Wales. We appreciate that not all were able to attend - copies of the presentation are available, so if you would like one, please see Louise. Further information is also available on the Synod of Wales website: www.urcwales.org.uk

Over the years members of Beulah have contributed to the work of the Synod in many ways, including holding offices such as Synod Clerk and Treasurer. Colin Grimes, and Richard and Sarah Edwards currently hold responsibilities within the Synod.

# CALDEY RETREAT, 2019 Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday,

September 17<sup>th</sup>.

There are 17 places available, so if you are interested in going, please sign your name on the list in the porch as soon as possible.

The cost is £50.00 per night per person (ie total £200) which includes single rooms with full board at the guest house, St Philomena's. A deposit of £50 per person is required by the guest house.

The retreat will be led by the Revd. Anthony Beer, an old friend to many of us in Beulah, who has led us on Caldey on two previous retreats – we are delighted that he will be doing this again for us.



All those who have been to Caldey know what a wonderful time this can be – if you would like to know more, please speak to Louise.

# **Concerts at the Crossroads**

# Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 1.05pm

Tomos Xerri – harp Claire Wickes – Flute

Tomos Xerri gave a wonderful harp recital last year and at that time he mentioned that he had a duo partner who was a flautist. The flute and harp combine to make a beautiful sound world and they have chosen repertoire, which I am sure will transform a dull February day!

Date for your diary

# Wednesday 27th March at 1.05pm

## Angharad Lyddon – mezzo - soprano Nicola Rose – piano

A great opportunity to hear this outstanding mezzo as she prepares for the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition

# Tickets £5 on the door

All are welcome!



Croeso i Bawb!

# Directories

A new Directory for 2019 has been prepared and replaces all previous ones. This is for use by people within the church, and, bearing in mind the new General Data Protection Regulations, we would ask everyone who has one to keep it as safe as possible. Please also destroy (eg by shredding) any old directories in your possession. Many thanks for your help with this.

# Thank You

A belated thank you to all our drivers who kindly transported us to Beulah each Sunday through 2018. They are Audrey Budding, Colin Grimes, Harley Jones, Keith Jones, Huw Morgan, Catherine Tyler, Michael Warsop and Tony Webb. With grateful thanks, from Bronwen James, Margaret Johns, Joyce Mathias, Margaret Maynard, Joan Ridley and Elinor Ludlow.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> January

An excellent brunch was served to a good crowd on New Year's Day by the gentlemen of the church. Our thanks go to Tony, Roger, Chris, Pat, Simon and Harry, who provided this wonderful start to the New Year. Thank you Gentlemen.

#### 4th January

Thank you to The Social Team for organising the super New Year Party, and to Tony (ably assisted by Ian and Nigel) for getting us all involved in the games. It was great fun as we 'oldies' were able to participate in Musical Hats (instead of 'Chairs'!). Also, many thanks to Barbara, Ann, Eleri, Karen and Lesley, who presented the Bring and Share table and kept us supplied with liquid refreshment. It was a happy evening.

#### 13th January

Following Ruth's induction to the serving eldership, the Elders provided us with a splendid lunch and delicious desserts. Thank you Barbara, Pat and the Elders. It was a good family occasion.

Finally, one personal note, may I thank my Beulah family for the love and support I have received during the past two years of my health problems. It is so good to belong to such a caring church family, which I much appreciate.

> With love and thanks, Elinor Ludlow.

## Pastoral Care: Elders' Districts

Four Elders reached the end of their term of office in December, and we extend sincere thanks to Marianne and Nigel Barwise, Mary Edwards and Anne Wilkes for their valuable work over the past four years. Ruth Williams was inducted at a service on January 13 which was led by the Revd. Stephen Best. Marianne Barwise, Mary Edwards and Jill Ferdinando were commissioned as Pastoral Elders. Pastoral Elders have been introduced to ensure that all districts are covered pastorally by an Elder as insufficient elders were found through the nomination process. This role was undertaken last year for District 8 by Helen Harries and we are grateful to her for all her hard work with this. District 8 will now be taken by Ruth Williams; Mary Edwards will continue to have responsibility for District 1. Marianne Barwise for District 11 and Jill Ferdinando will take on District 3. The work of Pastoral Helpers was also recognised in the induction service, and every Elder now has a helper. A full list of Elders' Districts is in the new Directory.



CHURCH CALENDAR					
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30a.m.	Revd Gethin Rhys Blessing of Robin Stevens Junior Church		
		6.00p.m.	Soup Lunch to raise funds for Scout Jamboree United Communion at All Saints		
	4 th	7.15p.m.	Youth Fellowship		
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00p.m.	Women's Fellowship		
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Church Office		
Cat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Mid-Week Meeting Point		
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a.m. <b>10.30a.m.</b>	KIN Cake stall		
Sun	10	10.30a.m.	Revd Roger Bidnell Junior Church		
		7 15n m	KIN meeting in Canolfan after the service Youth Fellowship		
Mon	<b>11</b> <sup>th</sup>	<b>7.15p.m</b> 2.00p.m.	Women's Fellowship		
WOIT	11	7.30p.m.	Elders' Meeting		
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Church Office		
1 Vicu	10	10.30a.m.	Mid-Week Meeting Point		
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	3.15p.m.	Youth Drop-in		
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Mr Richard Edwards		
		loioodiinii	Communion		
			Junior Church		
			Church Meeting		
Mon	18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00p.m.	Women's Fellowship		
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Church Office		
		10.30a.m.	Mid-Week Meeting Point		
		7.30p.m.	Worship Skills Workshop		
Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.15a.m.	WRB Prayers – St Thomas Church		
Sun	<b>24</b> <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Revd Ken Graham		
			Baptism of Joshua Bowles		
			Junior Church		
			Paradise Run Collection		
		7.15p.m.	Youth Fellowship		
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	2.00p.m.	Women's Fellowship		
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Church Office		
		10.30a.m.	Mid-Week Meeting Point		
		1.05p.m.	Lunch Time Concert		
	Tomos Xerri harp, Claire Wickes flute				
Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	2.00p.m.	World Day of Prayer – Bethany Baptist Church		
Sat	1 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00a.m.	Synod Spring Meeting – Llandrindod Wells		
Sun	∠ 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00a.m.	Mr lestyn Henson		
1			Junior Church		
1		6.00p.m.	United Communion – Revd Gethin Rhys – Beulah		
1		7.15.p.m.	Youth Fellowship		
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00p.m.	Women's Fellowship		
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service – All Saints Church		
1		10.30a.m.	Church Office		
1		7.00p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service – All Saints Church		
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Any queries, contact Fiona Liddell or Alison Mcqueen

To all at Beulah Church.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers - both when I was admitted to hospital and on the safe arrival of Ethan James Nunn. With love from Donna, James, Lydia and Maddie Nunn.

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### **Three Mountains to Freedom** Lent reflections with URC churches in Cardiff

atmosphere. Come to explore ideas about living Christian faith in Cardiff. Come for all five or for just one session... Our sessions will draw on the book 'Three Mountains to Freedom', by John Dudley Davies, which takes a practical look at some themes in St Paul's letter to the Galatians. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9 pm. Here is a broad itinerary: Wednesday 13th March, Beulah URC The Foothills Galatians 1: 1 – 24. What type of church are we, and what is our story? What is the relationship between churches which are upholders of tradition and those on the edge, pushing boundaries?

Come along to get to know people from other churches and your own, in a friendly, informal

Wednesday 20th March, City URC Mount Faith Galatians 2: 1 – 21. Where does cultural tradition divide us or become a barrier to faith? Faith in what?

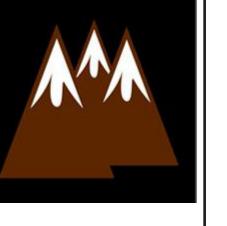
Wednesday 27th March, Beulah URC Mount Unity Galatians 3: 26 – 4:7. How inclusive is our church? Who's 'in' and who's 'out'? What would be needed for our nation to be truly One Nation?

Wednesday 3rd April, City URC Galatians 5.: 1-15. Mount Freedom What does it mean to be free in Christ? Is Christ enough?

Wednesday 10th April, Beulah URC Back on level ground Galatians 5:16 – 6:10. Living in the Spirit. What messages do we have to share with our church, and our community? What lies ahead for our own pilgrimage?

You are encouraged, if you wish, to get and read a copy of the book beforehand, although this is not essential. You are also encouraged to read through the letter to the Galatians and to bring a Bible to the session.

There will be a follow up meeting on Wednesday 8th May at City URC to discuss the continuation of the group, perhaps on a monthly basis and hosted by whichever churches wish to participate.





# Exploring Islam through conversation

to talk to someone who believes faith matters.

As many of you know I'm in the process of training to become a Methodist local preacher. As part of the course we are encouraged to find out more about another world faith; I chose Islam.

In the UK Muslims are the second largest religious group, making up just under 5% of the population<sup>1</sup>. After reading a few books I realised what I really wanted was conversation – to discuss faith with a Muslim woman. So I invited a colleague at work to meet over lunch. I was very nervous. I'd read a book on Christian/Islamic interfaith engagement- on what not to say to avoid causing offence. But I needn't have worried – she was very welcoming, it was great

Some of our most interesting conversations were about prayer and studying the Qur'an/Bible both what we do and why. As a devout Muslim she prays 5 times a day to a strict timetable which often means setting an alarm clock to wake up before dawn. The prayer is in Arabic, not her first language, and both the words of the prayer and the actions accompanying them are fixed. Only after reciting the prescribed prayer can she bring her concerns to God. We worked out she spends over 30 minutes saying the set prayers each day.

Her level of commitment challenges me. It is easy to repeat well known prayers without thinking about what we are saying. But what would it be like to make meaningful space for a short prayer five times throughout the day. Beginning with a prayer of adoration focusing on who God is, as Muslims do, before listing our individual concerns, helps us see the wider picture. It's a pattern of worship embedded in many of the psalms combining honesty with statements of trust in the love and power of God.

Talking to her makes me very grateful that I can study the Bible in my own language and have easy access to commentaries. I spend more time studying the Bible than she does the Qur'an; but she spends more in prayer.

We discovered shared experiences of people coming together to pray for others. I told her about the atmosphere in a church praying for their minister when her Dad was seriously ill. She spoke of women coming together to pray in silence for people they care about.

Yet there are major differences. I wondered what motivated her to pray five times a day. She explained that for her time on earth is like the 'blink of an eye'. What mattered was life after death – and what happened then depended on how you behaved on earth. If individual prayer goes unanswered you are building up rewards in heaven and will be better off when you die. Judgement is very real – and one of the main reasons for Muslims gathering to pray for others is to pray for the souls of those who had died that they will be spared punishment.

It was difficult for me to reconcile this fear with her description of the love of God she experienced whilst on Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). All devout Muslims are expected to go on Hajj once in their lifetime – it is an expensive journey. Women must be accompanied by a male escort such as her husband or close family members (generally someone she cannot marry). However no male escort is needed for a group of four or more women over 45. So when my colleague's brother announced he was going her husband said –'you go, you may not get another chance'. She left her young family and went to Mecca for a month. I was impressed with this decision – it goes

1 2011 Census statistics

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/articles/religioninengla ndandwales2011/2012-12-11

against common stereotypes about women taking the second place to men in Islam.

On her return she started to wear the hijab (headscarf), something she had not had the confidence to do before. She said she had not experienced prejudice at work or harassment but is aware she needs to be careful at times of increased hostility to Muslims.

I was staggered when she revealed she doesn't go to Mosque. In the UK 28% of Mosques have no facilities for women<sup>2</sup>. Communal worship is so important to me that I cannot comprehend what it would be like to rely on what my mother taught me and books/TV programmes/websites to find out more about my faith.

Last November I visited Dar UI-Isra Mosque as part of Interfaith week 2018 and asked a male leader about worship and facilities for women. They have separate places for women to worship – and indeed the women's toilets/washroom was behind a door labelled 'Sisters only' which led to backstairs and a back entrance. His view was that some Mosques don't have space for women – men are required to attend and so have priority. But he recognised that some Mosques may use this as an excuse to exclude women. For him women need to learn about Islam so they can teach children; I wondered what opportunities there were for women to worship without children.

Worship for my Muslim colleague involves all her life – how she treats people, what she does, what she thinks is right. It echoed a sound clip I'd heard on my car radio earlier in the week for a Radio 4 series presented by Baroness Sayeeda Warsi. In the clip poet Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan says that 'My version of me is one that does not have to separate God from my life. I exist to worship God'. Like many Christians Manzoor-Khan's faith is the motivation behind her social action. In the series Sayeeda Warsi interviews seven Muslim women about their faith, including a young Pakistani woman who found faith while training in the army. *https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06rvdbh/episodes/downloads* 

I'd encourage others to talk to friends/ colleagues of other faiths. It has deepened my understanding and helps me appreciate what matters to me about my own faith.

Vera Ruddock

2 *https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/feb/19/british-muslim-women-open-mosque-initiative* 

#### <u>ELDERS</u>

Monday, January 14 Monday, February 11 Monday, March 11 Monday, May 13 Monday, June 10 Monday, July 8 Monday, September 9

# **MEETING DATES, 2019**

Monday, October 14 Monday, November 11 Monday, December 9

#### <u>CHURCH</u>

Sunday, February 17 Monday, April 29 (AGM) Monday, June 24 Sunday, September 22 Wednesday, November 20

Please note that all these dates are provisional and may change as required in response to developments in the calling of ministers to Cardiff.

# KIN

# **Together We Care And Together We Share**

The end of 2018 proved a very busy, constructive, heart warming time of fund raising for various charities - all through your generosity and good will.

We raised :-

Rhiwbina Christmas Festival: 24 November Space4U, £460 Action for Children £300. Christian Aid (Peacemakers) £96.75

Beulah Bazaar: 1 December Save the Children Fund £1,130 Roland McDonald House £50

Carol Singing: 19-22 December Barnardos Cymru. £375

Light of our Loss retiring collection: CRUSE £75

KIN Christmas Coffee morning: 22 December MIND Cymru - £300

Christmas (Beulah Card): Samaritans £320

Blessing of the Crib Service: Star (Student Action for Refugees) £350

These are such good amounts and a range of charities have benefitted from your generosity (and I hope you had some fun helping raise the money too!). Thank you so much.

The next **KIN Fund raising meeting** will be held after church on **February 10<sup>th</sup> 2019** when we can start to plan for this year and some new ideas for everyone to participate in! So come and join us. Also if you would like us to raise some money for a particular charity you are personally interested in, then please let me know.

Thanks Eleri

who's Donig what and when						
	N	lini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader	
February						
3rd	am	Huw Morgan	Elaine Edwards	Audrey Budding & Barbara Clift	Richard Sweetnam	
	pm			United Communion at All Saints	)	
10th	am	Catherine Tyler	Gaynor Rees	Keirsten Eales & John Prosser	Huw Morgan	
17th	am	Keith Jones	Andrew Glanfield	Mary & Mike Warsop	Pat Ruddock	
24th	am	lan Budding	Derek Evans	Pat Agland & Fiona Liddell	Trix Pryce	
March						
3rd	am	Tony Webb	Tony Webb	Ann Grimes & Eleanor Mills	Peter Ferdinando	
	pm		Tony Webb	United Communion at Beulah	Mary Edwards	
10th	am	Colin Grimes	Marianne Barwise	Mary Prosser & Trix Pryce	Brenda Cheer	
17th	am	Harley Jones	Mike Warsop	Eleri John & Betty Evans	James Hall	
24th	am	Mike Warsop	lan McDowell	Pam Penny & Denise Dickman	Cathy Wales	
31st	am	Huw Morgan	Nesta Thomas	Helen Harries & Richard Sweetnam	Andrew Glanfield	

Who's Doing What and When

# **Flower Rota**

#### February

3rd	Tina Taverner				
10th	tba				
17th	Denie & Ron Leech				
24th	tba				

#### March

3rd	tba			
10th	tba			
17th	Sally & Rhian Jones			
24th	Marg & Alun Jones			
31st	Fleur Richards			

### WEEKLY NOTICE SHEET

Areminder that notices for the weekly service sheet should be sent to Kaye Mundy, (kaye.mundy1@gmail. com) with Louise copied in, (secretary@beulahurc. org.uk). Notices should be sent as early in the week as possible, and no later than Thursday, please. Kaye has been doing this, and other secretarial support work, since September, and we are very grateful for her help. Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

Please note, new editorial e-mail: crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

Editors' Note The deadline for articles for the March edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 17th February and Colin will be editing.