



BEULAH
CROSSROADS

**The
Monthly
Newsletter
of
Beulah
United
Reformed
Church**



Love to all,
Mary Prosser.

CHURCH NOTES

One of the great benefits to me of joining with All Saints and Bethany for services is the insight and knowledge that we gain from experiencing each others' traditions. The joint Communion in February was in All Saints and it happened to be Candlemas, a feast about which I knew very little. At the end of the service we all gathered around the crib and watched while its lights and that of the epiphany star were turned off. Each holding a candle to remind us that we should each shine with the light of Christ's love, we followed a cross, right around the sanctuary to the font. There, standing in front of the cross, all the lights were turned off; we blew out our candles and remained in darkness for the final prayers. I found this very moving, perhaps a reminder that we, like Jesus, cannot remain in Bethlehem, but must travel on. We were already getting ready for Lent, and setting our faces towards Jerusalem and the cross.

Soon, we will have the opportunity to share in another tradition at All Saints, as on Ash Wednesday we are invited to mark the beginning of Lent by joining them for their services of the imposition of the ashes.

On Wednesdays during Lent we will be able to join with friends from the other URCs in Cardiff for Lent Reflections based around Paul's letter to the Galatians. I am grateful to those who have organised these for us, which will be held alternately in City URC and Beulah. This is a great opportunity to join together in discussion and reflection, and all are welcome to join in whenever possible.

I would also like to thank the group who have worked on preparing worship in Lent. The overall theme will be Perspectives on the Cross and we will be using art work to help

us in our thinking and reflecting through the season. This group began their preparation by thinking about what we value most about Lent and what benefits might emerge for us as individuals and as church. These are some of the things that people said: time to meditate and reflect; contemplation and self-examination ('taking spiritual stock'); discussion with others; waiting and listening; 'an emotional journey'; greater sharing; chance to follow the whole journey with Jesus; deepening understanding and faith in God.



We will also be encouraging people to use the Christian Aid 'Count your blessings' materials. This year's theme is 'Rise up against Climate Change' and uses the Lenten themes of awareness, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, transformation and blessing to deepen our understanding of the difficulties facing a small fishing community in the Philippines. We hope that through the use of these materials, our worship, the Lent study groups and private reading and prayer we will all be touched by the grace and unending love that Jesus carried to the cross, and be nudged and inspired to share that love with others in every way that we can.

FAMILY NEWS

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Mrs Ann Williams earlier this month,

and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. We are grateful to the Revd. Roger Bidnell who led her funeral service in Beulah this week.

Our condolences are also sent to Mrs Jean Rogers and her family, on the death of her husband, Alan. Jean has recently spent some time in hospital and has now moved to a new nursing home. We also hold in prayer the family of Mrs Lilian Cotter who died this month.

Several members and friends have been unwell and received treatment at home or in hospital. In our thoughts are Joan Staddon, Vera Williams, Kathryn Henderson, John Rhys and Don Lewis. We think of them and all those who love and care for them, some of whom are facing very difficult times.

We were delighted to celebrate with two Beulah families in February by welcoming their babies into the church: Robin Stephens through a blessing ceremony, and Joshua Bowles through infant baptism. Our thanks to the Revds Gethin Rhys and Ken Graham for conducting these ceremonies.

Finally, congratulations to Sarah Edwards who will be celebrating a special birthday this month!

Blessings,

Louise.

Church Secretary:

Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Email:

secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer:

Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

Email:

treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk

Multumesc - Thank you!



On behalf of myself, my friend Ancuta, her pastor husband, Beni and children in Navodari, Romania can I say thank you to all of my Beulah family that donated sweets before Christmas.

I was overwhelmed by the amount of sweets given and thank you really doesn't seem enough.

Once collected I sent them in with clothes and other Christmas gifts that I had collected. They left Cardiff by coach and took a bit longer than usual to arrive with Ancuta. I was beginning to worry slightly as the boxes hadn't arrived but was overjoyed to receive a message on Christmas morning to say they had arrived that morning - a true Christmas blessing for the children!



The photo shows some of the children receiving clothes and sweets - something they rarely get. They are truly blessed and grateful to receive gifts.

As you know these people are very close to my heart and all I can say is thank you.

Love,
Denise

Sanyu Babies' Home in Uganda

As many of you may know, I have spent three summers at Sanyu Babies' Home in Uganda. I am planning to return this summer and stay for a longer time (1-2 years is the current estimate...).

In previous years I have done some fundraising to support various projects at the home including re-tiling a room, buying play resources such as a parachute, taking the children on an outing (a treat is usually just sitting at the gate watching the traffic go by) and having two memorial benches made to remember all the babies from Sanyu who have passed away. Due to the longer trip this time I am organising several fundraising events to raise as much money as possible to take with me. The Barn Dance we held in January was great fun and raised lots of money.... thank you to everyone who supported it!

On **Saturday 23rd March** we will be having a family friendly **fundraising quiz** in the Canolfan from 7-10pm. Entry will be free but donations gladly welcomed. You can either come as a team or a solo participant and teams can be made on the night. The evening will include food so please let us know if you are planning to attend for catering purposes

Hope to see you there!

Emily (and the rest of the Cheer Family)

Thank You

To the congregation of Beulah United Reformed Church.

We would like to say thank you very much, to you all, for your generosity and the amazing amount of Christmas food that was donated to Cardiff Children's Services last December. It was all very much appreciated by the families with whom we work, and the staff of Children's Service are extremely grateful for your support to the work they do. The generosity of everyone was quite wonderful.

We hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and wish you all the best for 2019.

Best wishes from all of us.

CELEBRATION!

We are celebrating our 65th (Sapphire) Wedding Anniversary at the end of March, so in thanksgiving we would like to invite the whole church to join us for cake and coffee (or tea) in Canolfan after the Service on 31st March.



We hope you can come and join our celebration.

All our love,
Alun & Marg

P.S. It's Alun's Birthday that week too! *Marg*

KIN (Kindred in Need)

Together we care and together we share

We held a KIN meeting on 2nd February to begin planning for the year ahead, and to discuss some new ideas and fundraising opportunities. So you may wish to note the following and look out for further details

16th March Coffee Morning for Good Neighbours in North Cardiff

We'll be selling gifts, books and jewellery along with your coffee and cakes.

School bags for children in Romania

KIN will be helping Denise Dickman put together school bags full of supplies for Romanian children to encourage them in their education. Please keep an eye on the Church Notices for how you can support this worthwhile project.



Dates for your diary ...

11th May

Christian Aid Big Brekkie

We're hoping to have some guests join us this year at our Big Brekkie as we seek to campaign and raise awareness around global warming and divestment from fossil fuels.

18th May

Pudding and Games Evening

This should be fun! Please join us, and help us raise money for Good Neighbours in North Cardiff.

29th June

Rhiwbina Festival Saturday

.....

Junior Church continue to raise money and support HHI and the little girl, Beulah.

We have some other ideas that you may be interested in organising or helping to organise - if so please let me know.

Beulah Recipe Book - do you remember the last one? I have one dated 1998. Would anyone like to help organise a new one which we could sell to fund raise for KIN?

Beulah Poetry Book - again would anyone be interested in organising one?

Harvest/Autumn Fair

Thank you,

Eleri

KIN at Easter

Alms Bowl Collection

This year you are invited to follow the Christian Aid Count Your Blessings journey through Lent. The Rise Up AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE booklet contains daily reflections and actions intended to help us give, act and pray for our neighbours around the world living with the effects of climate change.

There are suggested donations which can be put aside for the Alms Bowl collection on Easter Sunday. (Please remember the daily giving amounts are only suggestions). The Count Your Blessings booklets will be available on Sunday 3rd March, and then from Eileen

Good Friday Lunch

Our soup, bread and cheese lunch will be held after the service at 12 noon.

This is a family meal and all are warmly invited. This year we'll be raising money for the United Mission to Nepal's Disability Programme, and specifically for children who are born with clubfoot.

Easter Breakfast

Money raised will go to Space4U drop-in for asylum seekers and refugees.



**World Day of Prayer
Bethany Baptist Church
1st March 2019**



This year's World Day of Prayer [formerly known as the World Women's Day of Prayer] will be held at Bethany Baptist Church, Heol Llanishen Fach, Rhiwbina at 2.00 pm. The new name emphasises the fact that this service is open to everyone.

Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist Social Republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone. Please join us for the service and for refreshments afterwards.

Diane Burton & Mary Bidnell



Creating a climate of change.

The call to climate action is getting louder and louder, with research showing that our window of time to change predictions of the future is getting smaller and smaller. So, this year, over the 40 days of Lent (beginning 6th March) we are inviting you to become part of the 'Living Lent' community, where together we will make significant, personal commitments to changing our lifestyles for the climate.

Could you take on one of the following challenges:

- ▶ go meat-free
- ▶ take up an alternative form of transport
- ▶ give up single-use plastics
- ▶ have an 'electricity free' hour every day
- ▶ buy only locally sourced food
- ▶ commit to buying nothing 'non-essential' new

Through the 'Living Lent' community, we will share blogs, spiritual reflections and creative materials, and support each other as we attempt to change our lifestyles for the climate.

For more information click on <https://livinglent.org/>

Regards,
Harley

**FLOWING STREAMS,
BRINGING LIFE**

This theme, based on the words of Ezekiel 47.7-9, has been adopted by Beulah for 2019.

Alun Jones has written a hymn and some opening words which have been used in worship a couple of times for 'theme' services.

How to develop the theme beyond worship was discussed at the January Elders' Meeting, and it was suggested that this should form the basis of Church Meeting in February, which is what we did on February 17.

The Meeting divided into groups and discussed how the theme could be used in different aspects of church life. There was lots of animated discussion, and an amazing number of ideas generated. These will now be collated by a small group and common threads found for further thought.

It's great to have the ideas – now all we need is people to put them into practice! Some things will fall naturally to different groups within the church but it would be good to involve different people too – so please look out for appeals for help with organising some of the suggestions!

Many thanks to all those who took part in this meeting, which has given us lots of food for thought about how we can bring the 2019 theme to life.

Louise

WEEKLY NOTICES SHEET

A reminder that notices for the weekly service sheet should be sent to Kaye Mundy, 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.

Concerts at the Crossroads

Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday 27th March, at 1.05pm

Angharad Lyddon - mezzo-soprano

Nicola Rose - piano

Angharad Lyddon was the 2018 winner of the Welsh Singers Showcase, the competition which selects the Welsh singer to represent Wales in the 2019 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Angharad has a beautiful voice and together with Nicola Rose her pianist has prepared a programme which will include songs by Schubert and Fauré and opera arias by Offenbach, Bizet and Saint-Saëns. A wonderful opportunity to hear this lovely young singer at the beginning of her career.

Date for your diary

Wednesday 24th April at 1.05pm

The Roberts family

Elen – Double bass, Hanna – viola, Catrin – Saxophone and Emyr (their father) – piano

A seriously talented musical family come to Beulah to entertain us.

Tickets £5 on the door

Exploring our Faith

‘Holy Habits’

Last year we purchased a few copies of Andrew Roberts’ book, which a number of people have used for private study and in preparing worship when we started thinking about ‘Walking the Way’, the URC discipleship initiative.

Alongside the book, there are 12 booklets which develop practical ideas. The idea is that there are “holy habits” which we can encourage and practise.

The booklets cover: *Biblical Teaching, Serving, Fellowship, Eating Together, Breaking Bread, Gladness & Generosity, Prayer, Worship, Sharing Resources, Making More Disciples*

Later in the year we hope to set up a discussion group to explore these in more detail, but meanwhile, if you would like to read the book, please ask Louise for a copy.

Stepwise

This is the new development programme from the URC. Individuals from different churches can meet together for more formal study and learning and practical activities. It is for local leaders, lay preachers, elders, but also for anyone who would like to learn with others and offers a chance to meet people from other churches. It isn’t only for people who feel a vocation to some form of leadership. For more information, there are leaflets in the porch, or visit: urc.org.uk/stepwise



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Edward, son of Bev and Ian Hampson, grandson of Barbara Collins, is getting married on St. David’s Day, in Tobago.

Edd and Mariana met at Uni in Cardiff ... and the rest is history! Mariana is from Trinidad and so the Hampsons are off to a Caribbean wedding.

They will be having a blessing in Beulah in April.

Three Mountains to Freedom

Lent reflections with URC churches in Cardiff

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

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 Mount Freedom Galatians 5.: 1- 15.
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.

Any queries, contact Fiona Liddell or Alison Mcqueen

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **April 2019** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 24th March** and **Huw** will be editing.

BIG DAY OUT 2019
Saturday 29th June
Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground



Visit the Beulah website at: <http://www.beulahurc.org.uk/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 1st 2.00pm
 Saturday 2nd 10.00am
Sunday 3rd 10.30am

6.00pm

Monday 4th 2.00pm

Wednesday 6th 10.00am

7.00pm

~~Friday 8th~~ 3.15pm

Saturday 9th 10.00am

Sunday 10th 10.30am

7.15pm

Monday 11th 2.00pm

7.30p.m.

Wednesday 13th 10.30am

10.30am

7.30pm

Sunday 17th 10.30am

7.15pm

Monday 18th 2.00pm

Wednesday 20th 10.30am

10.30am

7.30pm

7.30pm

~~Friday 22nd~~ 3.15pm

Saturday 23rd 7.00pm

Sunday 24th 10.30am

7.15pm

Monday 25th 2.00pm

Wednesday 27th 10.30am

10.30am

1.05pm

7.30pm

Saturday 30th 10.15am

Sunday 31st 10.30am

7.15pm

7.15pm

APRIL

Monday 1st 2.00pm

Wednesday 3rd 10.30am

10.30am

7.30pm

~~Friday 5th~~ 3.15pm

Sunday 7th 10.30am

6.00pm

World Day of Prayer – Bethany Baptist Church

Synod Spring Meeting – Llandrindod Wells

Mr Iestyn Henson

Junior Church

United Communion at Beulah – Revd Gethin Rhys

Women's Fellowship

Ash Wednesday Service – All Saints Church

Ash Wednesday Service – All Saints Church

Youth Drop-in

KIN Cake Stall

Mrs Sarah Edwards

All Age Junior Church

Youth Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

Elders' Meeting

Church Office

Mid-Week Meeting Point

Lent Study Group MWL

Revd Gareth Dyer with Communion

Junior Church

Youth Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

Church Office

Mid-Week Meeting Point

Lent Study Group – City URC

Worship Skills Training MWL

Youth Drop-In

Quiz Evening to raise money for Sanyu Baby Home

Revd Roger Bidnell

Junior Church

Youth Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

Church Office

Mid-Week Meeting Point

Lunch Time Concert

- Angharad Lyddon Soprano, Nicola Rose pianist

Lent Study Group MWL

WRB Prayers – Beulah

Mr Geraint Richards

Junior Church

Paradise Run Collection

Youth Fellowship

Women's Fellowship

Church Office

Mid-Week Meeting Point

Lent Study Group City URC

Youth Drop-In

Worship Team

Junior Church

United Communion at Bethany

Youth Drop-in dates are as follows:-

March 15th

March 29th

April 12th

LENT



RAGS

(This poem was submitted by Betty Hulston, who remembers reciting it at an Anniversary service in her church when she was a teenager. Betty)

*He wasn't a handsome doggy,
But this I can truthfully say,
He was one of the best when he answered the test,
When I needed him most one day.
His coat was all coarse and scraggy
And just like a doormat, indeed,
And my friends used to say, in their humorous way,
'He's one of the Chippendale breed'.
For his legs in front were twisted
And turned out from left and to right;
And his eyes used to squint with an uncertain glint
For Rags had but very poor sight.
But under his coat so scraggy
Lay a heart of the purest gold,
For my faithful friend proved his love in the end.
Here's the story will soon be told.*

*We were walking out one evening
When I slipped on top of the crag
And I fell with a blow to the sea far below
And was followed at once by Rags.
I lay on the waves unconscious,
Kept up by his failing strength.
He kept me afloat 'til a rescuing boat
Came up and they saved me at length.
They rescued me but on looking
To save my brave comrade as well,
He had sunk 'neath the waves to a watery grave.*

*'Tis a sorrowful tale to tell,
But his memory still will linger
In my heart while God gives me breath.
I will honour my friend who was true to the end
For his love was stronger than death.
And oh friends, this story reminds me of one who did die
That our souls he might win from all sorrow and sin,
To live with him ever on high.
All praise to our blessed Redeemer,
All praise to our unfailing friend;
Let us honour his name who bore all our sin and shame,
And whose love is true to the end.*

USING THE SCREENS

Training Workshop, Thursday 28th March at 7.30pm

Huw and Marianne will lead this workshop in the church. The training will focus on two aspects of using the screens:

1. Huw will lead a session in using the actual technology so that we have a wider pool of people with the knowledge and confidence to set up the projector and screens on a Sunday morning. We may then be able to have a rota for this so we do not rely on just one or two people. This is aimed at anyone with an interest in the technology, not just worship leaders.

2. Marianne will lead a session in how to create Powerpoint slides which give maximum accessibility to the congregation reading them. This is designed particularly with worship leaders in mind, but may be of interest to others who use PowerPoint in other areas. If you are involved in leading worship with the use of PowerPoint, we would encourage you to attend this session.

Louise

**Volunteer required for the
Whittaker Lounge
on a Wednesday,
one morning
every six weeks.
If you feel you could help,
please contact
Christine Pugh**

**Editorial
Team**

Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

Please note, new editorial email address: crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

Who's Doing What and When

		<i>Driver on Rota</i>	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Stewards</i>	<i>Pulpit Reader</i>
March					
3rd	am	Bill Sampson & Colin Grimes	Tony Webb	Ann Grimes & Eleanor Mills	Peter Ferdinando
	pm	Ecumenical Communion Service at Beulah			Mary Edwards
10th	am	Huw Morgan & Giles Ballisat	Marianne Barwise	Mary Prosser & Trix Pryce	Brenda Cheer
17th	am	Harley Jones & Catherine Tyler	Mike Warsop	Eleri John & Betty Evans	James Hall
24th	am	Mike Warsop & Keith Jones	Nesta Thomas	Denise Dickman & Pam Penny	Cathy Wales
31st	am	Tony Webb & Audrey Budding	Ian McDowell	Richard Sweetnam & Helen Harries	Andrew Glanfield
April					
7th	am	Bill Sampson & Colin Grimes	Anne James	Kaye Mundy & Bev Hampson	Kate Hampson
	pm	Ecumenical Communion Service at Bethany Baptist			
14th	am	Huw Morgan & Giles Ballisat	Lorraine Larcombe	Chris Phelps & Lynne Davies	Lynne Davies
18th	pm		Gill Grivas	Duncan & Christine Pugh	Derek Evans
19th	am		Jenny McDowell	Frank Kinsey & Harley Jones	
21st	am	Harley Jones & Catherine Tyler	Colin Grimes	Andrew Glanfield & Diane Burton	Eleanor Mills
28th	am	Mike Warsop & Keith Jones	Liz McCarthy	Fiona Liddell & Mair Haywood	Anne Thomas
May					
5th	am	Tony Webb & Audrey Budding	Viv Jones	Marianne Barwise & Nesta Thomas	Bev Hampson
	pm				
12th	am	Bill Sampson & Colin Grimes	Liz Kidd	Giles & Philippa Ballisat	Lorraine Larcombe
19th	am	Huw Morgan & Giles Ballisat	Trix Pryce	Karen Sampson & Audrey Budding	Ruth Williams
26th	am	Harley Jones & Catherine Tyler	Fleur Richards	Mary Warsop & John Prosser	Jenny McDowell



Good Friday Activity 19th April 2019



Just a reminder to our young people and children (aged 5 years and over), that preparation on Good Friday, for the Good Friday Service, will take place at 9.30am in Canolfan.

Flower Rota

March

3rd Lesley & Mary Richards
10th Gaynor Rees
17th Sally & Rhian Jones
24th Marg & Alun Jones
31st Fleur Richards

April

7th tba
14th Ann & Colin Grimes
21st Cathryn Hales
28th Jill & Peter Ferdinando

