



# BEULAH CROSSROADS

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



Dear Friends,

July 2020

There are moments in life that shape us. Martha can remember watching the first moon landing with her parents' friends in their living room. She can also remember walking across the school playground on 11 September, 2001, having heard about a first plane crashing into the Twin Towers. She was sure that it was some kind of crazy accident. Within an hour we knew that wasn't the case. David remembers being at home, nursing a chipped bone in his hand after playing football the night before, watching the horror unfold on the television.

Many of you will remember where watching the coronation of the Queen. Others of us will remember waking up to hear about Diana's death and watching the subsequent events unfold, reshaping the UK and the monarchy. Within the church there will be events that you remember, like the development of the Canolfan, which have shaped the church community.

Surely 2020 will be one of those seminal moments in time. But what will we remember? Will we remember where we were when we heard that life was shutting down for a few months; or our daily walks, our food delivery, queuing outside the grocery stores? Will we have corporate memories of these months of isolation?

And what will we remember about June 2020? Will the video of George Floyd haunt us or change us? Will the Anti-Racism rallies change us or will they be a memory of “strange times?” Will we remember Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry not because MET officers photographed their lifeless bodies but for the joy and love they brought into the world?

In speaking with some young adults there is a fear that this time is just a phase—that the protests, the demands for change, the

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Some churches in the US have adopted this sign, "Jesus was a person of colour, murdered by state sanctioned violence." Continuing to follow Jesus faithfully means

*Martha and David*



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*John and Mary Prosser*



## CHURCH NOTES

July and August are at the height of the summer. We are now moving to shorter days and have had some welcomed rain for the gardens. Unfortunately some have experienced further flooding to their homes again too. Autumn is on the way but it feels like we are only just emerging from our cocoons like the butterflies at Easter.



Graffiti Jesus is always a welcome sight at the Crossroads and this year was no exception. Recently he has been the subject of vandalism on a few occasions. Black Lives Matter T-shirt and one with Jesus taking the knee has provoked reaction. Thanks to Jo Jones for her great artwork and perseverance with some late nights and early mornings keeping watch. Our local PCSO's are also keeping a look out for any further disruption.

The leadership and elders will be discussing and planning how and when our church and Canolfan will open the doors again. We

have had some guidance from Synod and will keep you informed. There are many considerations and our priority is safety for all.

At this time we are usually wishing our young people well at the end of their exams before heading off on their travels for the summer. Instead we are getting ready and preparing to go beyond our current 5 mile radius.

### Thank you

Betty Evans, many thanks for all your hard work and support in our pastoral care over the last few years. You can have a well deserved rest, now that Ruth Williams has taken over the reins.

Thanks and best wishes also to Viv Jones for her hard work as she has now stepped down from the Chair of the Communications Committee. Communication has been a vital part of our activities during lock-down. If anyone would like to join the team please get in touch with Colin Grimes, Communications Church Life Elder.

Thanks also to Martha, David, and all those who have been contributing to our Mixcloud and Zoom services. I have enjoyed listening to Mixcloud on a Sunday morning, and now on Zoom. I know that others have enjoyed keeping contact, listening by phone, too.

Take care and stay safe,  
Anne



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## Canolfan garden open during the day and other garden updates

I am pleased to say that the canolfan garden is now open during the day (See attached notice).

Thanks to Ann Grimes and Ruth Williams for making the case for this to the elders meeting. Gavin and Ruth are opening and closing the gate each day, though I understand if the weather is poor it may be left closed. If closed at any time the combination lock code is as previously sent.

Thank you to Elinor Ludlow who has donated the funds for some bedding plants that are now establishing in the planters and will give some more colour over the summer.

Thank you to everyone who has been doing some weeding/pruning and planting. The garden is looking well.

Things will start to grow more now with the recent rain and heat, so please do pop in and enjoy some pottering if you have an hour to spare.

I have just had an update from the Green flag award organiser to say that we are likely to be assessed later in the summer, so all the more reason to keep it "tidy". I will send round that email for info.

All the best  
Ian



## COMMITTED GIVING

Firstly, I hope you are all keeping safe and well? I would like to follow up on my report in the May newsletter by saying thank you if you have continued to give by monthly standing order, if you have chosen to set up a new Standing Order and those of you who normally give by weekly envelope who have sent me a cheque instead.

As it is now clear that it may be some time before it will be possible to bring weekly envelopes to Church, I would again encourage those of you who use this method to consider setting up a monthly Standing Order – I can let you have our bank details. Or perhaps you might like to send me a cheque from time to time? However, if you are happy to continue using your envelopes to bring to Church at some future date, we will, of course, be grateful to receive them then. Thank you.

Take care and keep safe.

Barbara  
Church Treasurer

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Congratulations to Anne and Chris Wilkes on their Silver Wedding Anniversary which they celebrated on the 24th June.**



**Love from all the Beulah Church Family.**



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

## Apogee and the HP Planet Partner Programme

Apogee are joining forces with HP's Planet Partners waste collection Programme (PPP) to provide a more sustainable future. This service will replace the current program, which is provided by Clover Recycling as of the 1st July 2020.

The initiative aligns with Apogee's objective to become more sustainable and introduce 'greener' ways of working and it's a key part of our Environmental Management System, certified to ISO14001. The recycling program provides a free of charge, simple and convenient way to recycle HP & Samsung toner cartridges and enables returned products to be correctly recycled and manufactured into new recycled products whilst avoiding millions of tons of waste to landfill.

Apogee are encouraging clients with HP and Samsung devices to register online for the programme and details on how to register for the HP Planet Partner Program are below. The programme adds huge sustainable benefits to you, our clients, and most importantly to our planet as together it ensures billions of toners are recycled every year.

Remember its ONLY HP & Samsung toner cartridges that can be accepted as part of the programme.

Please forward to all your internal contacts and sites to ensure all areas of your organisation register with the HP Planet Partner Program and benefit from this free of charge service.

### 5 Quick & Easy Steps to Start Recycling

1. Go to the portal - [hp.com/recycle](http://hp.com/recycle)
2. Click on 'Recycle Now'
3. Order your recycling box/service
4. Fill box with used toners
5. Arrange collection of recycle box

Did you know that HP uses recycled plastics to manufacture new Original HP ink and toner cartridges? Here's some key stats from 2019:



**784 million** ink & toner cartridges recycled every year

**3.6 billion** ink & toner cartridges made from recycled plastics

## Thank you for our Sunday Services

Mary and I have found the various services on Sundays a great help in coping with 'Lockdown', particularly the one from Beulah. We would like to use Crossroads to thank all who made contributions.

We start with the Morning Service on Radio 4. Then there is the Mid Morning Service on BBC1, where they have been using Herford Cathedral as the central broadcasting point.

The 'Golden Moment' for us is listening to David and Martha leading the service from Beulah.

Finally, we listen/watch 'Songs of Praise', on BBC1. We thus give our appreciation and thanks to all who present these services for us each Sunday.

As for our Beulah Family we reserve our special thanks. It is not easy to set up a listening service which includes a service sheet for us to follow. Our Elders have done a sterling service for us all and continue to do so. To these we say 'thank you'. To David and Martha and all participants - 'thank you'.

Love,  
*Mary and John Prosser.*

## Editorial Team

Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

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# KIN (Kindred in Need)

## Together we care and together we share

### Food Bank

As you know we have been collecting food for the Cardiff Foodbank. So far you have donated 201kg of food, which is enough for 19 people, so that's 171 meals!!.



So, we are going to keep going with this as we feel there will be even more need as the weeks go by.

The items Foodbank need are: Sponge Puddings, Long Life UHT Milk, Long Life Fruit Juice, Squash, Rice, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Custard, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Veg, Tinned Meat, Jam, and they are also collecting toiletries ..... Shampoo, Shower Gel, Deodorants and Soap. So, if you can donate anything, that will be great.

You can either bring tins, etc., and leave them inside my porch door (4 Heol Y Bryn), or if you need us to collect items from you (remembering social distancing) we can collect from outside your door. Julie has offered to do this - so let me know and we'll arrange a time etc., to pick up items. You can also donate money on line via the Cardiff Foodbank website, or donate items in Morrisons or Sainsburys, too, if you are shopping.

### Summer holiday fun and fundraising for all the family

We are not able to fund raise together with coffee mornings, Summer Festival, etc., at the present time. So, we thought we would put together a couple of websites that you might be interested in. Obviously there are numerous charities available and fund raising sites, but we have heard about these that you may find challenging and fun!

**MacMillan WhoDunnit** virtual online games kit with 8 friends, it was simple to use and great fun. It would obviously fundraise for Macmillan Cancer Support?



<https://gamesnight.macmillan.org.uk/whodunnit.html>

**Operation Bletchley** - is a virtual Codebreaking Challenge - raising money for ABF The Soldiers

Charity. It may be of interest to some of you who like to try your hand at cracking codes! You will need to cover 50 or 100 miles on foot and crack codes as you go - but you can do this over a month over the summer, There are also three levels to tackle individually, as a family, or with a group of friends!. More information is available on the website.

**British Heart Foundation** - My step challenge - Sign up, track your steps and raise money at the same time.



**Save the Children's Save with Stories** ... each story can change a child's life. Lots of celebrities read their favourite children's stories to raise money for Save the Children.



**Save the Children**

- Why not listen and watch on Instagram and YouTube with your children and grandchildren?
- The coronavirus crisis is hitting vulnerable children hardest and the effects could last a lifetime.
- By donating to Save with Stories you can support the most vulnerable families in the UK and around the world.

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/coronavirus-information-advice/save-with-stories>

**Raise Your Game for Ty Hafan** - GameRaisers lets you and your friends come together to raise vital funds for Ty Hafan.

Invite others to watch your gaming progress on Twitch TV and donate to your GivePenny fundraising page. Full details at:-



<https://www.tyhafan.org/gameraisers/>

**Host a gaming night** - invite your mates, load up the game and compete to see who is the best. Stream it all and watch your fundraising total rise as you play.

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## KIN (Kindred in Need) (cont from page 5)

Together we care and together we share

**Get the whole family gaming.** Why not devote an hour or two to a family gaming session one morning? Will the kids beat the parents?



If you have any ideas you'd like share, or if you are fundraising then let everyone know

Thanks,  
Eleri, Eileen and KIN

## Beulah Community

The **Men's Sheds** group (The Den) which normally meets on a Thursday afternoon using the Canolfan garage and garden, have been meeting instead on Zoom to swop ideas and often have a quiz. The group has also put together an internal newsletter to keep in touch. One of the Den members has been making some plastic face shields with the support of the group, for health professionals such as those working in care homes or physiotherapy. Individual members also go to tend the Birchgrove allotment and have also helped keep the canolfan garden tidy ...both of which could do with some rain.

### Gardening Group -

The Gardening Group is hoping to gain more people to help with the Canolfan garden with the aim of applying for the GreenFlag award.

The Canolfan garden is growing well – almost too well!

Now that we are allowed out for extra walks, it would be great if people could maybe do a little bit to keep it looking well. Many hands make light work, but just not all at the same time, for now!

Please help yourself to herbs, - oregano, rosemary and thyme, which are flourishing

Some suggestions.

- The grass edge needs trimming either by hand or with a strimmer - there is an external electric point beside the main building back staircase emergency exit
- Weeding the steps and main walkways
- Watering containers
- Replace tulips and daffodils with some summer bedding plants
- Weeding any of the flower beds
- Anything else you think needs doing

If you need the code for the gate, please contact Eleri or Ian. You would need to bring some tools with you. Ian has cut the grass and will plant some beans in the containers and let's hope the children will be back in time to harvest some. Any ideas or comments please do get in touch with Ian

Eleri

## Together in Prayer

Perhaps you might wish to include each of the below, in your prayers of intercession, week by week, either in your virtual church services, or in your own prayers.

A single document containing the prayer calendar for the whole of 2020 is available to download.

### Week 27

#### 5th July

Pray for New Bethel United Reformed Church, Pontllanfraith and, Aberedw United Reformed Church, Builth Wells.

Pray for Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela

### Week 28

#### 12th July

Pray for Sardis Community Chapel, Ynysddu; and, Bryn Zion United Reformed Church, Builth Wells.

Pray for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama

### Week 29

#### 19th July

Pray for Cwmbran United Reformed Church; and, Salem United Reformed Church, Maesmynis.

Pray for Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

### Week 30

#### 26th July

Pray for Ebenezer United Reformed Church; and, Pontypool Bridgend United Church.

Pray for the Caribbean

*Prayers for countries and regions of the world are based upon the World Council of Churches publication:*

*"In God's Hands:  
The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle"*



# Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends, July 2020  
As some of you may be aware, our Jesus at the Crossroads has been vandalised three times. First his Black Lives Matter t-shirt was removed, then it was defaced to inserting all instead of black. When Jo replaced it with a t-shirt of Jesus taking the knee it was torn off in less than a day.

I understand that many of us struggle to understand white privilege. We often think, "I grew up with nothing, how can I be privileged?" If you are Welsh, you may have felt disadvantaged by the English. In that case, white privilege takes a different nuance. Coming from an inclusive Christian tradition, we have worked to help people understand that Jesus is for ALL people, so privilege and a slogan like "Black Lives Matter" doesn't make sense. Surely, we say all lives to matter in God's eyes.

In the midst of our questions and struggles with new terms, we are being confronted with racism in new ways. This confrontation troubles us. We don't understand the anger, the violence, the demands. As a white person, I might like this to all go away, so ripping down a t-shirt is an easy way to remove a powerful and painful message.

Yet if the church has any credibility in our world, the church, you and I, have to face into racism. We have to face the racism with is systemic, and we have to face the racism in us. God is for all people, but what Jesus revealed to his disciples was that God stood with the poor and the

oppressed. God did not create that oppression rather God was in the midst of it with them.

We believe that Jesus shows us the way to live. If that is the case, we have to stand with the poor, the oppressed, the voiceless. We have to listen and we have to work to create a world that is better for them. Do you know that 14 % of the UK population is BAME, but 26% of those in prison are BAME? I truly doubt the imbalance is simply because Black people are less law-abiding than other people.

"Analysis conducted for the Lammy Review found a clear direct association between ethnic group and the odds of receiving a custodial sentence. With black people 53%, Asian 55%, and other ethnic groups 81% more likely to be sent to prison for an indictable offence at the Crown Court, even when factoring in higher not-guilty plea rates.

"Black men are 26% more likely than white men to be remanded in custody. They are also nearly 60% more likely to plead not guilty." (From the Prison Reform Trust)

"Women from BAME communities were more likely than white women to die during birth or within the first year of their baby's life. In comparison to white women, black women were almost five times more likely to die from pregnancy and childbirth related causes, and Asian women were nearly twice as likely." (Association for the Improvement of Maternity Services)

At the moment we all know that BAME people are more likely to die of Covid 19. The recent Welsh government report suggests that this is due to institutional racism.

These are just a few examples of a racism don't see because most of us are white. Yet it is there. "White privilege" is actually all those things we take for granted, don't even think about because we are white.

If we are to have any credibility as a church, we have to stand with the BAME community. The act of listening may be personally painful. It may be painful corporately. If you want to talk about it in a safe space, we are creating a safe space to listen, to learn, and to think about how we can act.

God does call us to care for all people, but the example of Jesus calls us not just to care but to move and to act. I wonder if at this time our action is to stand in the midst of the muck with those who are put there and work to build a bridge out together. Jesus at the Crossroads is a symbol for the wider community that we know our place is with those fighting injustice. It is a symbol that we want to be there with those who need help to find their way out—no matter how uncomfortable it is for us.

Bless you as you listen, contemplate, learn and act. Bless you as we continue in lockdown, finding our way through all the challenges of these days.

Peace,  
*Martha and David*



## WRB (Whitchurch Rhiwbina Birchgrove) Churches

### Saturday Worship Meeting Places for July until December

We thank Margaret Elmes from Bethany for her work in maintaining contact across WRB. A Zoom service was held on Saturday, 27th June, and she has sent us this news of future events:

**25th July - Ararat Baptist:** more details next month.

The situation will be reviewed:

**29th August - Bethany Baptist Church,** Rhiwbina

**26th September - Tabernacle Presbyterian Church of Wales,** Whitchurch

**31st October - All Saints,** Maes Y Deri, Rhiwbina,

**28th November - St Teilo's R.C. Church,** Whitchurch

**19th December - Rhiwbina Baptist Church,** Rhiwbina

## Crossroads in Lockdown

Have you ever considered how lucky we are? Well, you lucky, lucky people just got a heap luckier, because this year we are going to have an August edition of the church newsletter!!



After some consideration, and bearing in mind the minimal opportunities for providing information to all our members and friends, we decided to run a special edition for August.

It's not intended to be a bumper issue, it's really just to keep the channels open, so to speak. But, if you have any special news you'd like to share, or information about forthcoming events (whether they're Virtual events, or real ones!), please let us know, by Sunday 19th July.

Best wishes,

Colin

## WANTED for the Beulah Cookbook (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

We still need your recipes for the Beulah Cookbook - Savoury, Salad, Cocktail, Dessert, Cake, etc. Please send to either Helen White, or myself, by post, email, or even hand delivery.

Helen's email is:  
admin@beulah.org.uk,

We're looking forward to receiving your much-loved recipes (also, a photo of the prepared offering, would be great!)

Thank you so much, Ann (and Helen).

All proceeds from the book will go to charity.



## Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **August 2020** edition of **Crossroads** (see above) is  
**Sunday 19th July**  
and  
**Colin**  
will be editing.

## Energy and Heating Replacement Feasibility Study on the Canolfan: an update from the Eco Group

Concluding his sermon on Sunday 21st June, David encouraged us to take the opportunity “to reassess life as we’ve known it ... and to reflect in this time of lockdown on what it means to be a follower of Jesus.”

Christian Aid had planned to use the theme of climate action throughout 2020 to galvanise support and energy around the case for climate justice. Dr Rowan Williams said, “Christian Aid has worked for seventy-five years alongside communities living in poverty. The greatest driver of poverty in the immediate future is the impact of the climate crisis.”

The climate emergency requires that we use less energy as well as better energy sources. Eco Church encourages local churches to monitor, manage and reduce their energy consumption and to put in place year-on-year targets for improvements. As followers of Jesus, we must take urgent and decisive action.

You may have noticed in last month’s Church Notes that the Elders had recently agreed a recommendation put forward by the Eco Group. Some of you may also remember that replacement of the boiler in the Canolfan was discussed at the Church Meeting on Sunday 15th December. The Eco Group felt that the need for a new boiler was a problem but also an opportunity, and was a catalyst for action. By installing solar panels, switching to greener energy sources and taking the divestment decision last year, Beulah’s membership had already expressed a firm commitment to move away from the use of fossil fuels. Improving the thermal performance of the Canolfan (e.g. by insulating the building better) would reduce the energy use and influence our choice of heating replacement. The group concluded that we needed detailed building-specific advice to assess the options, costs and potential savings to finance and to our carbon footprint. A successful consequent project would improve thermal comfort in the Canolfan, benefiting all of our users, and would act as a beacon to others as a practical response to the climate emergency taken by Beulah.



The Eco Group therefore proposed the commissioning of an Energy and Heating Replacement Feasibility Study and, despite the difficulties of the last few months, the Elders agreed to take this strategic step forward. The study is taking place in lockdown and I will continue to put regular updates in Crossroads. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like further details.

*Eileen*