

BEULAH

CROSSROADS

November 2020



Part of the United Reformed Church Cardiff & Penarth Pastorate

O'Donohue offers these lines

in his blessing "For The Interim Time":

*No place looks like itself, loss of outline
Makes everything look strangely in-between,*

Unsure of what has been, or what might come. . .

*You are in this time of the interim
Where everything seems withheld*

*The path you took to get here has washed out;
The way forward is still concealed from you. . .*

*As far as you can, hold your confidence.
Do not allow your confusion to squander
This call which is loosening
Your roots in false ground,
That you might come free
From all you had outgrown,*

*The more faithfully you can endure here,
The more refined your heart will become
For your arrival in the new dawn.*

The image of a waiting time, an unsure time, seems to connect to our lives mid-pandemic.

In these words there is promise—something new, not just a return to the old—is waiting to be birthed. The new will be birthed as we stay the course, listen and act with courage to serve God.

Instead of "stay safe" perhaps

we can say to each other, "keep faithful; keep listening; be prepared to respond to God's word in new ways."

Yours in Christ,

Martha and David

Church News

It has been lovely to see all the autumn colours and the leaves changing. After 20+ years working in a department with no windows I am enjoying being in an office with a view. During this firebreak lockdown the roads are a little quieter again already. If you are having any difficulties in getting out or require any help please let us know.

October saw our first Zoom AGM including reports for January to December 2019, which had been cancelled in April. Thank you to all who took part. It was good to hear and remember the work that went on, and to remember members and friends that are sadly no longer with us. There was also a first monthly Elders and leadership Q+A session after zoom worship.

Unfortunately our plans for Worship in the Garden were postponed, this has been rearranged for 16th November. Please let your Pastoral Elder, Helen White or myself know if you

would like to attend by 8th November. Numbers will be limited more details will be sent to you after the 8th November.

Christmas will be approaching soon, please do share advent readings that you enjoy for our Advent booklet.

Take Care,

Anne



Christians Against Torture

If you are interested in sending a Christmas Card to people who want support from the organisation Christians Against Torture please let Helen White know as soon as possible, to allow cards to go out at the beginning of Advent.

Canton Uniting have a tradition of sending cards to people who are persecuted for their faith. Ceri and Phil George will identify people who require support and provide a description about them. You can then send a card with your own personal greeting.

Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes

Revd. David Dean

Email: ministers@beulahurc.org.uk

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

Miss Tilley's is delighted to announce their new initiative: we will be hand delivering delicious home made cakes to customers old and new, in the Rhiwbina area. The team are missing the cafe and their customers, this initiative has been started to promote the well being of the team and our community in these difficult times.

Miss Tilley's can deliver slices of Apple Cake, Victoria Sponge, Vegan Brownie, Bara Brith and Lemon and Poppy cake. There is no charge, however, if you would like to make a donation to cover the cost of the ingredients then you can do so. All deliveries are on foot. The team would love to see you!

If you would like a socially distanced delivery then please contact Lisa with your name, address and cake preference. If you have any allergies then please let us know.



Advent Booklet

I wonder if any of you have any readings you particularly enjoy during Advent that you could share with me? I want to put together an Advent booklet and would like the first Sunday to include a reading and a prayer from some of you.

The main lessons for the day are Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11, and John 1.6-8, 19-28.

I would like to have any ideas **before 15 November**. Other readings for Advent are also welcome.

Thanks, Martha

Please don't forget that, although Beulah's buildings remain closed, our ministers, secretary, and elders are working hard to keep in touch via the Beulah website.....

<http://www.beulahurc.org.uk/>

and also through our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/BeulahURC>

Church Secretary:

Mrs Anne Wilkes

email:

secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Barbara Rhys,

email:

treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk

FINANCE

Many thanks to those who have already transferred their committed giving to Standing Order or BACS payments. Also thanks to those who have sent cheques covering their usual weekly payments. However, it is going to be some time before we can handle cash payments so I would be happy to talk through transferring to Standing Order with anyone who is not sure about how to do this and let you have our bank details if required.

For those of you who wish to continue with the weekly envelopes, we have taken a decision not to order new ones for 2021 and instead make use of those from 2020 next year. We hope this will help a little towards reducing waste. So please hang on to this year's envelopes to use when the time comes. As we are still unable to meet, please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk anything through. I can be contacted by phone [land line or mobile] or by email – details in the Beulah Directory.

With every good wish.

Barbara
Church Treasurer

Live Chickens and Plastic Tupperware!

Not two things you would usually see in the same sentence I'm sure - these are just two of the things we would like to gift the wonderful staff of Sanyu with this year. There are 43 members of staff at Sanyu, who all play their part in looking after our 50+ babies and toddlers. They work incredibly hard and treat the children as their own.



Last year, we gave the staff a basin filled with things to help them celebrate Christmas with their family. The basin contained things like a 2L bottle of soda, baking flour to make homemade treats, tea, bread... oh and we also gave each member of staff a **live chicken!!** A live chicken is considered one of the best gifts that can be given in Uganda, and often Christmas might be the only time that the staff can eat meat at home with their families, as it is very expensive.

When the gifts were given last year, there was so much joy and excitement and everyone truly was so grateful. It was talked about for months afterwards and it certainly made their Christmas special.

This year we want to gift our amazing staff once again, and obviously the chickens will be back! An added item this year will be a set of plastic Tupperware boxes sent from the UK. In Uganda you have to be very careful to keep food in sealed containers to avoid ants getting in, but good strong Tupperware can be hard to come by and is expensive. Whenever the staff see me with my Tupperware boxes they always ask about them, so we thought it would be a great addition to the Christmas Gifts this year!

It has been a difficult year for everyone this year. Lots of staff made the difficult decision to leave their families for the initial Lockdown in March and didn't see their children and loved ones for over 3 months. Some of these children were as young as 2 years old. Some staff members came back in May and have not seen their families since then. Caring for 50+



babies and toddlers is difficult, and usually Sanyu relies on visitors and volunteers lending a hand with the normal daily routine which hasn't been possible since March, but the staff haven't complained, however hard their days are.

If you would like to help make Christmas special for our wonderful and hardworking staff, then please get in touch with me – or call my family. Thank you in advance for whatever help you can give.

Emily

TRAIDCRAFT CHRISTMAS CARDS

Along with so much at this time, our usual plans for selling Christmas cards after morning service have been disrupted by COVID-19. We have looked at the possibility of selling cards outside after a morning service in the Canolfan garden, but there are a number of problems with that such as numbers of customers, the weather, social distancing, cash handling and so on so we have decided we cannot realistically do that. This leaves those wishing to purchase Traidcraft cards (other than looking for them in the shops or going along to Fair Dos) with just two options:

The first is to order them direct from Traidcraft via their website <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/christmas/charity-christmas-cards>. Clearly this implies being able to use the internet and maybe your family or friends could help there if

you're not confident. We would recommend this approach.

The second is to order cards via us. Having discussed this with Fair Dos in Canton (where we normally buy our stocks) we would try to get a supply of catalogues from them and then deliver the catalogue to you. You could then telephone your order to us and, when we get enough requests, we would place an order with Fair Dos (presently locked down!). When the cards arrive at the shop we would collect them and deliver the cards to you at your home. Fair Dos can't be certain about the number of catalogues/cards and there are dates to be met so it's all on a best endeavours basis, but we would do our best!! Should you choose this route, the deadline for requesting catalogues from us will need to be 14 November 2020.

Christine and Duncan

Thank you from Space4U!

A very big "thank you" to everyone who contributed to the Harvest collection of socks and pants/boxers, dried and tinned food and toiletries, which have been shared between Space4U, The Huggard Centre and the Food Bank. These are very much appreciated. With the Covid restrictions Space4U's drop-in for asylum seekers and refugees at the Trinity Centre on Newport Road (which had reached 200 per session) has had to be curtailed. However, we are still continuing with food deliveries to those in need from our Food Store and also dealing with referrals for clothing from our Clothing Store, on a reduced level. We are running our One-to-One Help and Information desk in person on an appointment basis and dealing with a range of problems facing asylum seekers. In addition, we have an Emergency phone contact service. There is a regular Zoom meeting for volunteers and asylum seekers and it is hoped that we will be able to recommence small English Language classes and possibly some recreational activities in the near future. We are so grateful for Beulah's continued support for the work of Space4U both through KIN and from individual donations. Many thanks indeed.

Jenny McDowell

CROSSROADS

One way for our young people to keep in touch with what is happening at Beulah when they have moved away from home is to receive the Crossroads each month. If your son or daughter is away now and would like to receive it, please can you ask them to email me and I will make sure it is sent out electronically to them. If they are still living at home, but would like to receive their own copy, again, please can they email me.

Many thanks,
Louise

KIN

Together we care and together we share



A big thankyou to everyone who donated gifts at Harvest.

The items collected will be shared between the Foodbank, Space4U and the Huggard Centre and will be greatly appreciated. If you would still like to donate something, please look in October's Crossroads for details ... it's not too late.

KIN at Christmas

SHOEBOXES : Operation Christmas Child ... please see separate notice

SANYU BABIES' HOME ... please see Emily's separate notices

JAMS AND CHUTNEYS ... available from Gaynor Rees on request

REDCURRANT JELLY ... available from Mary Bidnell on request

.....KIN continued

Noah's Ark and Ty Hafan :

CHRISTMAS SWAGS £7.50

If you would like a Christmas decoration for your front door, please email Karen Holbrook by 20th November or phone Helen White (church admin) on 07309738828.

The swags will be ready for collection/delivery on Sunday 6th December. (All money is to be placed in an envelope and paid on receipt of the swag, and details of where and when to collect will be given nearer the time).

Shelter Box :

KIN CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING with a difference! Saturday 19th December at 10.30 am on Zoom

This year the Christmas Coffee Morning will move online for the first time – it will be a bit different, but there will still be plenty of festive entertainment with music, conversation, mince pies and coffee (bring your own!), fellowship and fun.

There will be a mixture of live music and recorded music, as well as carols and Christmas songs for everyone to join in with. The Cheer family would love to hear from anyone who'd be willing to contribute a short musical item (sung or played) or perhaps something else Christmassy – maybe a poem or a joke? As regulars know, the coffee morning is a fun and informal gig, and neither age (high or low) nor experience (modest or extensive) should prevent anyone from joining in! Please get in touch with Brenda and John and have a chat about how you can be part of the coolest pre-Christmas Zoom Coffee morning you've ever been to.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE of hampers and gifts ... look out for details on how to buy your raffle tickets! The draw will take place at the Coffee Morning.

Thanks to you all from the KIN Committee

Thanks

Eleri, Eileen and the KIN / Social Groups.

URC DIARIES AND PRAYER HANDBOOKS, 2021

These are now available to order from the URC.

If you would like either or both, please can you let me know and I will order them for you and deliver to you when they arrive.

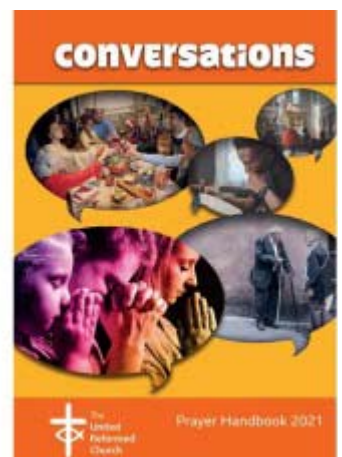


The pocket size diary is priced at £6.99, and the A5 size at £9.99.

The Prayer Handbook costs £4.99 – reduced to £4.49 if we have a large enough order.

Please can you let me know as soon as possible if you would like to order any of these, but no later than November 15th.

*Many thanks,
Louise*



Christmas is Coming....

Hello again, just a reminder that Sanyu Christmas Cards and Calendars are still available to order. Card orders need to be made by **14th November** to allow us enough time to make your cards and get them to the UK in time for you to send them out! Calendar orders need to be made by **1st December** to allow enough time for printing and delivery. Here is the necessary information:



Sanyu Christmas Cards are back by popular demand! Each card is handmade by one of our beautiful children (and finished in my apartment!) All orders are custom made, so you can select whichever designs you like – see photo below. The cards cost just 50p each; due to orders having to be shipped from Uganda to the UK we are asking for a contribution towards postage, so we don't lose all of our profit.



Sanyu 2021 Calendars are a new venture for us this year. Each month is illustrated with photos taken in and around Sanyu Babies' Home, including lots of pictures of gorgeous children! The calendars cost £10 each, with discounts available for purchasing more than one. All profit will be going towards replacing the roof of the babies' home. The calendars are being printed in the UK, and distributed by my family, so postage costs will be minimal.



If you would like to place any orders please contact me – or call my family.

*Thank you,
Emily*

Anti-Racism

2020 has been an eventful year. From pandemic to Brexit we seem to leap from one major event to another. The death of George Floyd, an African American man, touched many deeply. While many black men, and some women, have been killed or mistreated by the police for years, for some reason Mr. Floyd's death disturbed us. As we know, it led to world-wide protests.

While some of us in Cardiff were involved in protests, others felt we had to stay away because of the pandemic. Still, we wondered, "What can we do in response?" A few of us across the pastorate gathered online to reflect on racism and our responses. We have educated ourselves in different ways by reading, listening to podcasts, watching television programmes and talking with each other. We have listened to stories of individuals impacted by racism, and we have wondered how we can not only change ourselves, but work to change the dominant narrative of racism.

We can only change the world as we are changed. So we decided to reflect on our journey with racism and looking into the work of being anti-racist. Several of us wrote stories which we shared with each other. As we reflect on how we might respond to racism as churches, we would like to begin by sharing some of those stories with you.

A journey begins with the first step. These stories reflect our steps and our journeys, We hope that as churches, we might take further steps on anti-racist journeys. We hope our stories will connect with you. May we all work to be anti-racists.

Martha

My Journey with Anti-Racism ...so far.

Growing up in Northern Ireland in the 1960's / 70's, there was not a very ethnically diverse population, albeit culturally divided. There was one Indian family at school and later, my first English Language student was the son of the owner of the only local Chinese Restaurant.

At Sunday School we sang:
"Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
All are precious in His sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Coupled with our weekly collection in the "Sunshine Bag" for Laloo, a poor child in India, the attitude was one of Christian concern, of paternalistic care for those in far away countries who were less fortunate than us.

Later at university I was part of a Welcome project run by the Christian Union for students arriving from overseas. So there

was an opportunity to meet people from many different countries and get to know them personally. My special responsibility was to link up with a lady from Sri Lanka who had left her family to come to Edinburgh to study for a Masters in Business.

My visits to Malawi in 2007 and 2009, gave me a different perspective – I was the one who was different, who didn't know what was culturally appropriate and was the only white face among thousands in Lilongwe city centre -an uncomfortable, but instructive experience.

For the last thirteen years I have volunteered and helped to run Space4U which is a charity providing friendship and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Cardiff. Those who arrive at our doors are from a variety of countries and ethnic backgrounds – Sudanese, Eritrean, Iraqi, Iranian, Syrian and many more. Space4U has given me the opportunity to spend time and get to know

many different people, as individuals. Their struggles and their journeys, their endurance and perseverance have prompted concern but also respect from me.

So, following the death of George Floyd and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, I like to think that I am not "Racist", but am I Anti-Racist"?

This is a different question, one which challenges. Of course I think I treat everyone equally and of course black lives do matter. Surely this is core to my Christian faith – that we are all made in the image of God and therefore equal before Him. But there were new things to learn as I began to read more widely, watch documentaries about Black History and discuss anti-racism. Researching and listening to Black voices it is clear that people of colour in this country are not treated equally, as any examination of statistical data will demonstrate and as numerous official reports on the

subject acknowledge.

Reading “Why I am no Longer Talking to White People about Race” by Reni Eddo-Lodge was uncomfortable because I was on the receiving end of her anger. Those who are in positions of disadvantage or in need of assistance rarely feel empowered to be open about ill-treatment or discrimination they face. So, to hear the honest account of experiences of people of colour in this country was shaming.

I have never been conscious of my race or my colour in this country, I have not had reason to have to think about it. On the other hand, people of colour have to factor that in to their lives. They are more likely to be stopped and searched by the police, more likely to be followed by a store detective in a shop, more likely to receive harsher sentences in court, less likely to get an interview, less likely to get a well-paid job even with the same qualifications from top universities and experience many other daily indignities born of unconscious bias.

I suppose what I have come to understand better recently is that not being racist is not the same as being Anti – Racist. Anti-Racism puts the onus to act on those who hold the power and privilege. And whether I feel like it or not, the fact of the matter is that being white gives me privilege. The question now is, what will I do about it? Continue to go along with the status quo which bolsters that privilege and disadvantages those of colour, or look for ways in which I can work for change in attitudes and in structures?

So, am I Anti-Racist? In theory, yes. In practice, it remains to be seen.

Jenny McDowell

Whenever discussions regarding the issue of racism have arisen over the years, a much repeated phrase has been “But, it’s different in Wales. We are not like America or England.” Although I have never believed this statement, I have to own up to harbouring a naïve hope that it might be true. After the tragic death of George Floyd in the summer, one of my daughters sent me a YouTube clip by a Black Welsh speaking friend of hers. In the video he states powerfully that Welsh people need to understand that it’s not different in Wales. Black people in Wales are subjected to the same racist comments and physical abuse. We have the same structural racism. His ending was particularly challenging to me as he said; Welsh speaking Welsh people need to wake up from an assumption that somehow Black Lives Matter has nothing to do with us.

My own journey included a couple of years in Birmingham working with women mainly from Pakistan or East Africa. This was a very special time, I learned so much from the women I met and worked with. I have felt very grateful of the experience of living amongst Muslim families. It has allowed me to question the anti-muslim bias of recent years. I knew there was racism and inequality but my attitude then was to emphasise the importance of understanding people’s culture and religion. I believed that knowledge, understanding and respect were key. After all, there were different ways of being British, there were different ways of being Welsh.

However, through the reading and the programmes I have watched over the summer

I can see that racism is structural, a relationship of power. Personally, I don’t feel particularly powerful but I do have to acknowledge that I have benefitted from white privilege. I rarely consider that I’m white, I am not defined by my colour. Ben Lindsay in his book “We need to talk about race” states “Black people face challenges White people have never thought of.”

I still believe that understanding others’ religion and culture are important, but now I see an understanding and re-examining of history as vital. The powerful 1980’s slogan “We’re here because you were there” needs to be reflected in how history is taught. Alongside as shown in David Olusoga’s series “Black Britain”, the Black history of Britain goes back much further than we imagined. Black history in Britain and Wales has been hidden, a presence and contribution made invisible. A challenge has been given to us. Maybe now we do have an opportunity to do things differently in Wales.

Rhiannon



Thank you Beulah for allowing us to be part of the Beulah Family. We have received so much since we joined you in 1962. We have had joys and sorrows, and on every occasion Beulah has been with us. Recently I received lovely flowers and a plant which were symbols of everyone's care. Thank you for them and the calls in person (with distancing!), phone calls and cards. We shall miss Ali greatly as a family; we were so privileged to have him. He brought so much joy, care, wisdom and support to us all. He lived such an exemplary life that the world has been enriched by it and will miss him. Rest in perfect peace, Ali, and thank you for being you: a perfect husband to Ann and a wonderful father to Kia and Nikisa.

Joan (Ridley)

THANK YOU

May I thank the church family for the lovely plant which Jill Ferdinando delivered to my door – it is giving me so much joy. Jill has been keeping in touch - her phone calls always bright and cheerful. Also it is good to have "Crossroads" put through my letter box with all the news etc. Thank you all for your thoughts and kindness. May the love of God be with you all and keep you safe and well.

From Margaret (Clee)

Christmas in Pandemic: Please get involved!

Following a Lessons and Carols format, we would like to compile a series of short videos evoking the various scriptural scenes. The readings are below:

Isaiah 9, 2, 6-7
Micah 5, 2-4
Matthew 1, 18-23
Luke 2:1-7
Luke 2:8-20
Matthew 2, 1-12
John 1, 1-14

As an example of how you might illustrate one of the readings, Micah ch 5 v 4 says: 'He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.' There are quite a few sheep in Wales wanting to be videoed or to have their portrait painted!

All of the videos are achievable by using a smart-phone to record photo, video or sound. If you envisage a separate sound track to a video and lack the software to put them together, record them separately and ask Andrew Wilson-Dickson to stitch them together. Creating your own material with your phone camera and/or sound recorder is much

the best option for this project. Cloning material from the internet can be tricky technically and, more importantly, it's possible to collide with copyright restrictions.

Don't worry if your videos are a bit frayed at the edges; they will be enjoyed by the fact that they are home produce! They can be short too, responding to even one bible verse. Representation of scenes can be found on the stonework of church buildings, on the streets of our communities, in parks, in our homes. Use your imagination to take photos, create artwork or make videos which could be used without fear of infringing copyright.

We are keen to create a video which is unique to our group of churches and is uplifting for a celebration of Christmas in pandemic.

Questions? Get in touch with Andrew Wilson-Dickson: let him know your choice of reading you'd like to illustrate?

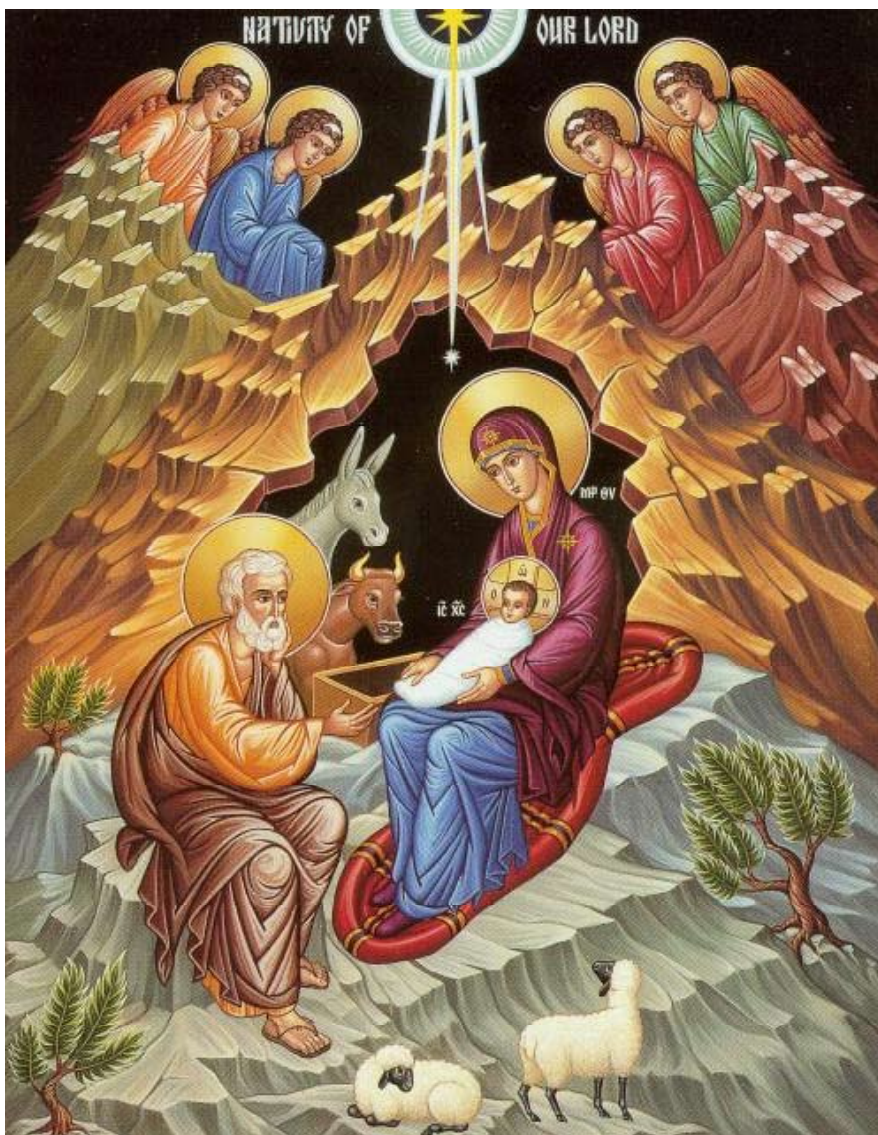
Christmas is a comin'

Our Christmas celebrations as a church are going to be different this year but we are making plans to ensure that children of all ages have an opportunity to take an active part in Christmas services of one kind or another.

Sunday 20th December will feature the nativity story as told by older members of Junior Church and a Christmas Eve 'Blessing the crib' zoom service will involve the younger ones. In both cases contributions will need to be prepared and filmed by individual families and then seamlessly put together by those who know how!

We would encourage all who would like to take part in one or other of these services to let their junior church leader know.

Fiona Liddell



Light for Our Loss

Beulah has a tradition of having an annual service to mark the deaths of people in our community through the Light for Our Loss service. This has been a special opportunity to grieve together.

Pandemic has brought grief to all our homes. We have also lost friends and family members to COVID-19 and related illnesses. In addition, because of the pandemic we have experienced multiple layers of grief related to lost opportunities, lost jobs, lost relationships, etc. So the Light for Our Loss service is more important than ever. The Light for Our Loss service is space to reflect on these losses. It is a time to remember, hold onto what is good, and let go of sadness. Though the service won't be the same as in previous years, it will still be space for prayer, remembering, healing.

The service will be at 6 pm on 6 December. We hope it will be in person and virtual. If you want to attend in person you will need to book a place through admin@beulahurc.org.uk. Look out for the virtual option on Beulah Friends closer to the date.

The next edition of Crossroads will be prepared by Colin, and anything for inclusion should be sent to him by Sunday, 22nd November 2020

Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

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