



## Letter from the Manse



# Beulah CROSSROADS

The  
Monthly  
Newsletter  
of Beulah  
United  
Reformed  
Church

December  
2021



Part of the United Reformed Church Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate

### Into the Darkest Hour

*Madeline L'Engle*

It was a time like this,  
War & tumult of war,  
a horror in the air.  
Hungry yawned the abyss-  
and yet there came the star  
and the child most wonderfully  
there.

It was time like this  
of fear & lust for power,  
license & greed and blight-  
and yet the Prince of bliss  
came into the darkest hour  
in quiet & silent light.  
And in a time like this  
how to celebrate his birth  
when all things fall apart?

Ah! Wonderful it is  
with no room on the earth  
the stable is our heart.

Dear Friends,  
December 2021

**I**t is Advent. We don't need to ask what your plans are. We don't need to ask whether you are ready. Of course, these are important aspects of any conversation in December, but, perhaps what we have learned in the last few years is that life surprises us. Joy and sorrow mingle in our lives in unexpected ways. We cannot avoid them. So, we make plans, but they go astray, and Christmas happens whether we feel ready or our plans have gone perfectly or not.

Advent has traditionally been the time we spiritually prepare for Christmas. We don't just physically prepare to welcome family and friends, we spiritually prepare for God's coming again in Jesus. I wonder, however, whether this year instead of focusing on preparing physically and spiritually, we might focus on 'noticing.' Noticing, in this case, means looking closely at what is happening in life, and, in this case, 'noticing' where God is present in our lives and our world.

*Continued on p.2*

# CHURCH NEWS

As we move into Advent, there is anticipation and change. It is good to see more members and friends back in church. Thank you to all who are preparing and helping with services and other church activities. During November children have returned to church and it is lovely to see them too. Preparations are afoot for them to lead a service and for Blessing the crib service on Christmas Eve. I am also looking forward to a Christingle service in the garden on 19th December which will be my first one!

During the last 18 months many of our members and friends have sadly died and we will remember them in the Light for our loss service on 5th December, please let me know if you plan to attend as we may have 2 services. There will be an opportunity to remember your loved ones adding their names to our tree. Graffiti Jesus will also be making an appearance again too.

A reminder that as we remain at Level 0, we do still have guidelines to adhere to including recording attendance for Test Trace Protect. This will include signing in for both church and for attending tea and coffee in the Canolfan. In the Canolfan there will be a sheet available upstairs to sign. Your details will be kept in the locked office for 21 days and then destroyed. Please consider the protection of others and continue to use face coverings when moving through the buildings.

For those who were present at the Church Meeting you will be aware that our Administrator post will be terminating at the end of December. Not everyone has had the opportunity to meet Helen and although she has been in post for 2 years, much of this time has been spent working from home since the first lockdown. I would like to sincerely thank Helen for all her work during her time with us and I know you will join with me in wishing her all the very best for the future.

## Family News.

Good wishes to all those who are unwell, self-isolating, in hospital or recuperating at home.

Happy Birthday wishes this month to Martha, have a lovely day and what could be better than an Elders Meeting!

*Best Wishes  
Anne*

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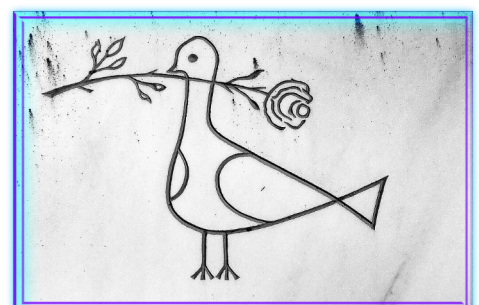
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*From p.1*

It is easy to see the broken places in the world, where God seems absent, where selfishness and power appear to blot the love of God from being present. And Madeline L'Engle's poem reminds us that the world that is never ready, yet still God's love breaks in. Perhaps we could put aside our rushing and pause to notice the places where we love is present, where people are reflecting God to others? Perhaps we could also pause and notice those broken places where we would like to see God's love break in and join our prayers with others seeking God in those settings.

Perhaps through Advent we can offer our own hearts and hopes to connect to God's love while we wait for the joyful birth of Jesus.

*Yours in Christ,  
David and Martha*



## Junior Church news

### Advent packs to collect

There are Advent packs for you to collect, if you haven't already had one – one per family, including four activity sheets for the four weeks of Advent. See Pat or Ann on a Sunday morning in the Canolfan, or contact any Junior Church leader and we could arrange to get one to you.

### Children leading Christmas services

Rehearsing is underway for our Christmas productions. Young people will be taking part in our morning worship on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December. A Blessing the Crib service, led by younger children, returns to its customary 'slot' at 5pm on Christmas Eve; social distancing will be in place for the congregation, so to allow as many as possible to attend this service it will be live streamed to a 'big screen' set up for the occasion in the Canolfan. You can also watch on live stream from your home.

## Christingle service

A Christingle service will be held in Beulah Garden at 3pm on the afternoon of December 19<sup>th</sup>. This is suitable for families but all are welcome. Please note the date and we hope to see you there.

### 7- 14s to meet every Sunday

Seven to 14 years olds are now meeting weekly, once again.. The next few weeks involve preparing for Christmas services (see above) and from January we will continue to meet weekly in the Canolfan.

### First Aid training places available

We have a few spare places on a Paediatric First Aid course which is booked to take place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January, in the Canolfan. If you are a parent, grandparent, or just interested in taking advantage of this recognized qualification, please let me know. [fiona.liddell1@virginmedia.com](mailto:fiona.liddell1@virginmedia.com)

*Fiona Liddell*

## WHITTAKER LOUNGE

### FINALLY UP AND RUNNING!

It is good to report that we are now open 4 days each week, with Monday and Tuesday being run by Miss Tilley and Friday and Saturday run by Beulah volunteers.

The feedback from volunteers has been good – inevitably, despite all the planning (!) we have experienced a few minor teething problems, but certainly no showstoppers.

This is to thank everyone who has come along over the past few weeks to offer their support – it has been appreciated by the "workers".

The Youth Fellowship have kindly designed a new advertising poster to go in the frame outside the entrance so keep your eyes open for that.

*Christine Pugh*

## Weekly Offertory Envelopes

In the past I have issued new weekly offertory envelopes each December to anyone who has been using them during the year, plus newer members who ask to have them. But with Covid things have changed!

Many people who used envelopes in the past have now switched to monthly standing orders or periodic BACS payments direct into Beulah's bank account. Those who do this find that it is more convenient, and with so many bank branches having closed in the last few years it is much more convenient for our Treasurer and the finance team. Either myself or Barbara Rhys can provide you with the bank details or a standing order form for you to submit to your bank.

But if you still wish to make your weekly committed offerings using the envelopes, please can you let me know and I will issue you with a pack for 2022. My e-mail address and telephone number are in the Beulah directory, and messages may be left on my answer machine if needed.

Thank you for your continuing support for all of Beulah's work.

*Fiona Reynolds*

### Birth announcement

The Hampson family are delighted to share the news that Edd and Mariana had a baby boy, Eli William, on September 26. He is another gorgeous grandson for Bev and Ian, and for Roger and Moira, and great grandson for Barbara Collins.

A laugh is just like sunshine -  
 It freshens all the day;  
 It tips the peak of life with light  
 And drives the clouds away.  
 The soul grows glad that hears it  
 And feels its courage strong.  
 A laugh is just like music -  
 It lingers in the heart,  
 And where its melody is heard  
 The ills of life depart.  
 And happy thoughts come crowding  
 Its joyful notes to greet,  
 A laugh is just like music  
 For making living sweet.

*Anon*

*From "A diary for the Thankful-hearted" compiled by Mary Hodgkin*

*Found by Rubina Lewis.*



**Some musical entertainment to look forward to .....**



Saturday, December 18th at 2:30 pm, the brilliant

## **ONLY MEN ALOUD**

will be presenting their fabulous 2021 Christmas concert at Saint Andrews URC Church , Roath, Cardiff. CF24 3PB. The tickets are £21.50 plus a booking fee and are available online at [ticket source.co.uk/onlymen-aloud](http://ticket.source.co.uk/onlymen-aloud).

This promises to be an amazing event and a wide range of Christmas favourites will be performed beautifully by these very fine singers (including Niall Allen)

Any further information required can be obtained from Viv Morgan , Telephone number (07570) 807025

## **Singing in the Rain**

### **Wales Millennium Centre**

If you would like to join a group going to see Singing in the Rain on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm tickets £40 each. Please sign list in the Church porch or contact Ann Grimes - payment due by Sunday 6th February.



## CHURCH CALENDAR

### December

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 – 6.00 p.m.	Rhiwbina Winter Festival
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Worship with Communion: Revd. David Dean
	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church
	6.00 p.m.	Light for our Loss: Revd. Martha McInnes
	7.15 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 p.m.	Women’s Fellowship
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Sit down to Beulah Christmas Meal, Whitchurch Golf Club
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Worship: Mr Geraint Richards
	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church
	7.15 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Women’s Fellowship Lunch at Caffi Fach	
	7.30 p.m.	Elders’ Meeting
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 a.m.	WRB Prayers at Rhiwbina Baptist Church
	10.30 a.m.	On Zoom .. KIN Christmas Coffee Morning
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Worship for Christmas led by members of the Senior Department and Youth Fellowship
	3.00 p.m.	Christingle Service in Church Garden
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Carol Singing outside MWL
	5.00 p.m.	Blessing the Crib; led by younger children
	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Communion: Revd. Martha McInnes
Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Worship for Christmas Day: Revd. David Dean
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	No Service	
	Crossroads Deadline	
January 2022		
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Worship with Communion: Revd. Martha McInnes
	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Worship: Revd. Gethin Rhys
	10.30 a.m.	Junior Church
	7.15 p.m.	Youth Fellowship

*Coffee now takes place in the Leaver Room each Sunday after worship.*

# KIN

**Together we care and together we share**

## **KIN at CHRISTMAS**

### **WINTER FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**in the Canolfan and Memorial Garden**

*in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital emergency packs*

#### **Mulled wine and mince pies**

We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies downstairs in the Canolfan.

#### **Stalls**

There will be a small number of stalls in the Garden Room, so please come along and have a look ...

Fairtrade Christmas cards

Christmas Raffle tickets - buy your tickets early for our Christmas Hamper Raffle

Bottle stall - try your luck! Everyone's a winner!

Beulah recipe books (for BHF)

#### **Memorial Garden**

The Canolfan doors will be open so that people can spend some time in the Memorial Garden which will be decorated in Christmas lights.

# CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

*in aid of the Samaritans Christmas*

*Appeal*

**Tickets - £2.00 each**

Once again we have a fantastic selection of Christmas Hampers and we're very grateful to those who have kindly prepared them.

**You can buy your tickets in person at the Winter Festival or from your Pastoral Elder.**

**To buy tickets by BACS transfer to Beulah, please use the reference SAMARITANS**

**For further details, contact Barbara Rhys   [treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk)**

Please buy your tickets by 12 noon on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December to be included in the raffle draw at the Christmas Coffee Morning.

Any questions, please phone Eileen (20624967) or Eleri (20613835)



## CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

*in aid of the Samaritans Christmas Appeal*

**Saturday 18th December at 10.30 am on Zoom**

The Christmas Coffee Morning will be online again this year but we can still expect plenty of festive entertainment with music, conversation, carols, mince pies, cake and coffee (bring your own!), fellowship and fun.

Please join us ... all are very welcome      (The Zoom link will be sent out nearer the time)

## Christmas Eve Carols

**outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge at 10.30 am**

It will be a joy to be able to sing carols once more on Christmas Eve outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge. We hope that many of you will be pleased to join in this opportunity to share our Christmas celebrations with the community in Rhiwbina.

With thanks and good wishes from all the KIN Committee.

We look forward to seeing you for our Christmas fundraising!

## From Cardiff to COP and back

I remember traveling with others from Beulah to a Christmassy London in 2009 to join with thousands demanding climate justice before the Copenhagen summit.

I remember being touched as the Greenpeace polar bear and the World Wildlife panda hugged on the steps of the Senedd as we stood in the wind and rain once more demanding climate justice before the Paris summit in 2015.

To be part of the Pilgrims Procession on the eve of COP 26 was something even more special. Pilgrims of faith - and no faith - had been welcomed to Glasgow and pilgrimages from within the UK and across Europe gathered on Glasgow Green. The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) completed their 1,200 mile relay from the G7 meeting in Cornwall that morning, arriving just in time to join the procession.

The march was colourful and noisy, rainbows formed and the samba band played, but the moment of true impact came as we stood in silence among the shoppers in Buchanan Street. This moment of sorrow, challenge and hope seemed to encapsulate and anticipate Sir David Attenborough's impassioned plea that COP 26 turn "tragedy into a triumph."

For two weeks campaigners and activists pressed hard for action to limit temperature rises to 1.5C and to secure the money communities need to respond, adapt and be compensated for the impacts of climate change. Prayers and hopes for climate justice, captured and carried on prayer boats, were displayed to decision makers and faith movements from around the world presented their demands for climate justice to delegates and leaders.

Ultimately, the Glasgow Climate Pact left much to do to make climate justice a reality and the nations of the global south must look now to COP 27 in Africa to hope that their voices will be properly heard. But I saw on the trains from Edinburgh and on the streets of Glasgow, passion and youth and international connections and determination. The same belief in possibilities as described by Amanda Mukwashi, the CEO of Christian Aid, when she said, "People of faith have united with activists from the Global South, feminists, youth and indigenous people to demand climate justice. Our movement has never been stronger and this must be the legacy of Glasgow to keep hope alive."

I returned to Cardiff in time for the Global Day of Action on 6<sup>th</sup> November. We gathered as a Pastorate to take part together and we were grateful to the folk in City URC for providing coffee. At a prayer meeting in Eglwys Dewi Sant organised by Christian Aid, Tearfund and CAFOD we then met as a 'faith bloc' with many others from churches across Cardiff before joining the main march from the City Hall to the Senedd. Marianne had made a special banner for the occasion so we had two beautiful Beulah banners to carry through the streets. It felt good to know that we were walking in solidarity with the 150,000 who were marching in Glasgow and that we were part of a global cry for climate justice.

The YCCN walkers had carried their Rise to the Moment Pilgrim Boat (see p.11) all the way from Cornwall and for the duration of the summit it rested in St. George's Tron. At the heart of the sail was the flag carried by the Welsh walkers from Swansea to Bristol which bore the words of St. David, "Gwnewch y pethau bychain" - "Do the little things".

In Glasgow I had picked up a copy of Life and Work, the Church of Scotland's magazine, and on the front page was an introduction to COP 26 written by Revd David Coleman who is Scotland's environmental chaplain. He wrote, "We will not, by small actions, 'fix' the world. Climate crisis is not one of those short-term issues, but the context in which we now live. And yet prayer itself is a transformative small action, placed in God's hands alongside our efforts to approach net zero, and model a better, more caring way of life. We look to our faith as a resource for the resilience we will need for the years ahead. In our responses, visible to the communities in which we live and work, churches can come into their own as beacons of hope, joy, forgiveness, and Good News to every creature (Mark 16:15). And we need to use this God-given opportunity to be different when COP has come and gone".

**Eileen**



## Operation Christmas Child

### Shoebox Appeal.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the shoe box appeal this year. Whether it was making a shoe box, providing items towards making up a shoe box, knitting, or giving money, all this enabled Colin to take 70 shoeboxes to the collection point.

*Thank you*

*Ann and Colin x*

### Christmas Food Gifts.

Again this year we are collecting Christmas food/chocolates/sweets/biscuits (please no alcohol), for families who are known to Cardiff Childrens Services Family Intervention and Support Team.

Please bring your gifts either to church or to our house (address in the church directory) by Sunday 5th December.

*Thank you*

*Ann Grimes x*

	AV System Rota	Bible Readings	Prayers
December 5th am	Richard Sweetnam	Huw Morgan	Roger Bidnell
December 5th pm	Harley Jones	Colin Grimes	Louise Morgan
December 12th	James Hall	Jill Ferdinando	Pat Ruddock
December 19th	Nigel Barwise	Liz McCarthy	Helen Harries
December 24th: 5.00 p.m.	Huw Morgan		
December 24th 11.30 p.m.	Andrew Glanfield	Pat Ruddock	Jenny McDowell
January 2nd	James Hall	Helen Harries	Jenny McDowell
January 9th	Marianne Barwise	Jill Ferdinando	Roger Bidnell

**Contributions for the next edition of Crossroads should be submitted by Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December and Colin will be editing.**

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

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

# KIN



**A Christmas hamper for the raffle.**

**SAMARITANS**





**Rise to the Moment Pilgrim Boat**