



Beulah CROSSROADS

The
Monthly
Newsletter
of Beulah
United
Reformed
Church

February
2022



Part of the United Reformed Church Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate

Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

February 2022

In the musical, 'Hamilton,' the life story of American Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton, the last song asks the question, 'Who tells your story?' This question gives us pause for reflection. What is our story, and who tells it?

We learn our faith from stories. Think of the stories we learned as children in Sunday School and school. They were simple and exciting tales of Jonah in a fish and Jesus feeding thousands of people from one little boy's lunch. These stories are precious and sacred. They shape us. The Bible itself is sometimes called a library—for it contains stories about God from different times and different people.

The Gospels are good examples of the questions, 'What is our story?' and 'Who tells it?' Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are each tales of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. When we compare them, we see that though they may share some individual stories, each gospel takes a slightly different focus, with different tales and emphases. Luke's Jesus addressed the poor

and the foreigner in unique ways. Matthew wrote for a Jewish audience which included unique references to Moses. Mark told the basics, moving swiftly through Jesus' ministry with no reference to his birth. John was more theological, using language and signs to shape his story of Jesus—with more focus on his teaching and the end of his life. Each Gospel is 'good news' told in unique ways for a specific audience. How many other stories about Jesus circulated but were not included in the canon of scripture, like the Gospel of Thomas, or were never written down? What is our story and who tells it?

We have been shaped by other stories. Our families have stories that we heard as children. Stories about how our parents met, or the jobs they chose, or their parents' disciplines or service in the war. The stories they chose to tell shaped our understanding of who we are, the values of that they passed on to us. Who told those family stories? What was precious enough to pass onto us and we now share with the children in our families?

Continued on p.2

CHURCH NEWS

As we move into February it's nice to see a little more daylight and I am enjoying being able to walk to my work each day.

It is also good that as covid guidelines change again to Level 0 we are able to open seating, have Junior church back and no longer book seating. For those who would still like to maintain 2metre distance the seating on the right of the church both upstairs and downstairs will still be available to use. Junior church /families can use the left side.

Please continue to use the Whittaker entrance for downstairs seating and main entrance for upstairs.

Thank you to those who have agreed to continue to steward and if you are now returning to church and feel able to help with this again, please let me know.

This month also brings the first Church Meeting to be held in church (covid permitting) rather than on zoom. Meeting dates for the year are also included.

Family News

Congratulations and well done to Jack McCormack who has successfully passed his masters in Research in Bioscience from Swansea University.

It was good to see Emily Cheer back albeit for a short time, and good luck back in Uganda

after the launch of your new charity, Joy of Learning. I am looking forward to hearing more about it in the months ahead.

Many congratulations to Patrick McDowell and Rachel Young who have recently become engaged.

Good Wishes to those who are unwell at home and to those recovering after treatment or operations in hospital. We are thinking of you.

Synod and URC News

2022 marks the 50th year of the United Reformed Church and there will be some local events to celebrate. Free tickets are also available for the anniversary service of celebration and thanksgiving on October 1st at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. You can find out more information about the 50th Anniversary on page 3 and at urc.org.uk

The next Synod Meeting will be held on Zoom on 12th March, if you would like further information or are interested in attending let me know.

*Best Wishes
Anne*

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From p. 1

Stories are important. From our catalogue of stories, what are the stories the church now needs and wants to tell our neighbours? We face a challenge. The need in our world is as great as it was in Roman controlled Israel or for the community in Exile. What story do we want to share into this need? Do we want to say 'God is love?' Do we want to talk about the Jesus who cared for the vulnerable? Do we want to reflect on God's care to create a world that sustained people and our role in that provision? What is the story from our faith story that might connect with people struggling to emerge from the isolation, fear, and loss of a pandemic?

As we emerge from the pandemic, we have an opportunity to reimagine the story of God's loving presence, to retell it in a way that connects with people today. God's story has been told to us by the authors of the bible. It is now our turn to tell it, to share it, to connect it with people today. How will we do this in our world recovering from a global pandemic?

Perhaps we speak of connection, a connection grounded in our interdependence and gratitude, gratitude for the service given over the last two years. The story of Jesus is one of valuing all people and creating a community to find a 'home' for all. Are these the stories, the threads, that bind us together in love?

*Yours in Christ,
Martha and David*

Celebrating 50 years of the URC



Looking back with Jean Silvan Evans, City URC

As we move into 2022, the United Reformed Church enters its Golden Jubilee year. In 2022, our church will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It was an anniversary that none of us at the founding service and celebrations ever expected to see. It was never meant to be like that.

Our church was formed in a climax to the fervent of ecumenism of the 1960s in a service on 5 October 1972. A union of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of England and Wales, it was the first church union across denominational lines in the 400 years

since Martin Luther's Reformation. But it was expected to be the first of many ...

As a symbol of that hope that the union would break the logjam and become a catalyst for wider unity, the celebration service was held at Westminster Abbey and led by Archbishop Michael Ramsey, who took part in the group resolve to seek wider unity. But the great ecumenical rapprochement never happened. And slowly, very slowly, the URC had to settle down to become just another denomination.

Still, it was great while it lasted. Not that I was among those celebrating in Westminster Abbey. I was across the road with my three children in Westminster's Methodist Central Hall, where the children had their own service and a tea-party. And where the formal union of the new United Reformed Church was actually forged, before the dignitaries moved on to Westminster Abbey for the celebratory service.

And it is there, back in the lovely Grade 11 Westminster Central Hall that the URC's main 50th anniversary celebration service will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 1 October 2022, when it is hoped as many people as possible across the denomination will gather to give thanks and to celebrate the five decades of our United Reformed Church. There is a possibility that BBC Songs of Praise will be filming part of the service. The service will also

be live streamed, and it is expected many churches will organise their own celebrations around it.

For those gathering in London, other activities are planned. Several venues, including United Reformed Church House, local URCs and buildings of ecumenical partners, will be open to visit during the day. They will offer a range of activities and workshops that engage with the story of our 50 years. Then there will be a Walk from Church House to Methodist Central Hall for the service, following a guide to point out places and buildings with significance to the URC. For info, email 50@urc.org.uk.

Over the longer period, a competition will be held to provide new music-poetic worship resources. It is hoped to involve people of all ages to share their creative skills across four categories: traditional hymn, contemporary worship song, rap and poem. Contributions will be shared as widely as possible for others to view and use – with some prizes for the lucky few!

Further information about the URC's 50th Anniversary plans, including how to book tickets to the 1st October service, can be found at:

<https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/our-50th-anniversary/>

Fairtrade Fortnight

The Fairtrade online festival, Choose the World you Want, runs from 21 February to 6 March, 2022. There will be virtual events, such as a 'Story telling tent' and a 'Foodie Tent.' For further information, please visit their website: www.fairtrade.org.uk

BLESSING THE CRIB

Christmas this year started, as always, with our Blessing the Crib service. The great thing about this year was that we were able to return to the church to perform it.

I would like to thank all the children who took part and those who stepped in at the last minute when some of the children were unable to perform.

Thank you also to all the Junior Church leaders who worked so hard in the weeks before and on the big day.

Our collection, which we made in aid of the Sanyu Babies' Home, raised just over £220. Unfortunately, Emily Cheer was not able to come home for Christmas, but we will ensure that the money gets to her in Uganda.

Thank you all for supporting us.

Happy New Year

Love from Carol x

Apologies to Carol for the delay in this item appearing in Crossroads. I had it in time for the January edition, but I forgot to include it. cg

DR. TERESA RICHARDS

First of all, I apologise that this 'news' is a month late appearing in Crossroads. Lesley provided me with the story, in time for the January edition, but I forgot to include it. cg

"Teresa graduated in 2017 from the Royal Veterinary College, Camden, with a degree in bioveterinary science and had accepted a place to study to become a fully-fledged vet at the University of Liverpool. But, that summer she went on holiday to Australia, and decided that the weather was much better than in the UK. So, Teresa applied to the University of Melbourne instead ... and the rest is history!!!

4 years later ... and Teresa has achieved her childhood dream, and started her first role as Doctor Richards with an animal hospital in Melbourne in January.

It's been a long four years, and lockdown has meant she hasn't been home for two years (she'd happily have traded her second Aussie Christmas for "Granny's nut roast and a Yorkshire pudding"), so the virtual love and support she's had from everyone back home has been much appreciated."

Lesley

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 – then please sign the list in the Church porch or contact Ann Grimes - payment due by Sunday 6th February.

World Day of Prayer

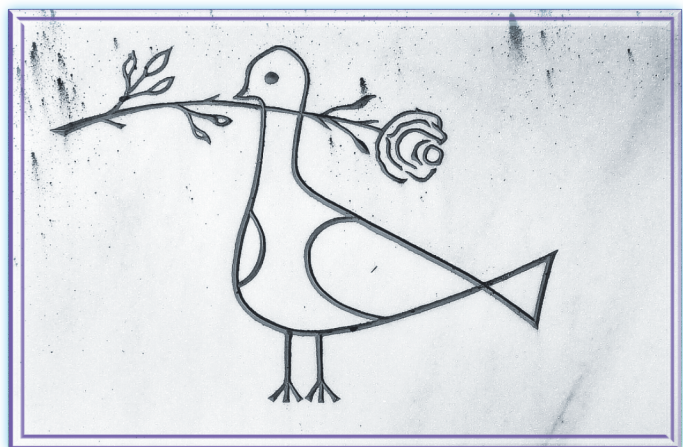
Last year we were unable to hold this event because of Covid restrictions.

However, we are pleased to announce that this year the World Day of Prayer will be held at All Saints Church, Rhwbina on Friday 4th of March at 2.00 pm.

A warm invitation is invited to all. We hope to see you there.

Diane Burton

and Mary Bidnell.



Services and Activities at Beulah Church in February

All are Welcome.

Sunday February 6th	10.30 a.m. Worship with communion: Revd. Martha McInnes 10.30 a.m. Junior Church 7.15 p.m. Youth Fellowship
Sunday February 13th	10.30 a.m. Worship: Revd. James Hall 10.30 a.m. Junior Church 7.15 p.m. Youth Fellowship
Sunday February 20th (Crossroads Deadline)	10.30 a.m. Worship: Eco Group 10.30 a.m. Junior Church
Sunday February 27th	10.30 a.m. Worship: Revd.David Dean / Revd. Martha McInnes 10.30 a.m. Junior Church

Our services are also available to be watched livestream via the internet.

Contact secretary@beulahurc.org.uk or Tel: 07855 640634 for further details. Please note bookings are no longer required although we will take your details for track and trace purposes. Seating is unrestricted although we will retain some at 2 metre distance.

Here are the meeting dates for 2022. They have already been sent out to Elders but would be good for all to know.

All Elders are welcome to attend monthly meetings, for those pastoral elders that are unable to there will be 2 joint meetings per year.

	Church Life Elders (CLE)	Joint CLE & Pastoral Elders	Church Meeting	AGM
January	Mon 10 Jan 7.30 p.m.			
February	Mon 14 Feb 7.30 p.m.		Mon 28 Feb 7.30 p.m. in Church	
March	Mon 14 Mar 7.30 p.m.			
April				Mon 4th April 7.30 p.m. in Church
May	Mon 9 May 7.30 p.m.			
June		Mon 13 Jun 7.30 p.m.	Sun 19 Jun after Church	
July	Mon 11 Jul 7.30 p.m.			
August				
September	Mon 12 Sep 7.30 p.m.		Mon 26 Sep 7.30 p.m.	
October	Mon 10 Oct 7.30 p.m.			
November	Mon 14 Nov 7.30 p.m.		Sun 27 Nov after Church	
December		Mon 12 Dec 7.30 p.m.		

KIN

Together we care and together we share

SHOW THE LOVE 2022

Last February we took part together across the Pastorate in the Climate Coalition's Show the Love initiative. Do you remember we knitted green hearts to hang around the church and Canolfan and on the beautiful heart created by Jo Jones?

Let's SHOW THE LOVE once again this year with the power of our green hearts.

Every February since 2015, the Climate Coalition has encouraged people from across the UK to use green hearts to ask their politicians to tackle the climate crisis and protect the things we love from climate change. When we make and share a green heart, we are sending a clear message to decision makers that we want to see real and rapid action on the climate and nature crisis - for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.

Wear your heart on your sleeve and commit to action by sending a message to the future.

We invite you to be involved in Show the Love this year by expressing your thoughts and feelings about climate change, your hopes and visions for the future and what actions you could take to help ensure a safe and secure world. Your message can be seen as a promise for the future or a love letter to future generations. It can be dedicated to loved ones (children and grandchildren, for example), your future self, the world or simply tomorrow. The message could be a promise to make a purely practical lifestyle change to reduce carbon use or it might express a hope or aspiration for a future which addresses climate change.

There are different ways to create and send your hearts ...

Paper Crossroads: please write your message in the heart (p,9), colour it and cut it out.

Online Crossroads: to print your own, please email Eileen (richardeileen2009@hotmail.co.uk) for the image, or to get a paper version, contact Eileen (20624967).

(You can, of course, create your own heart if you prefer!)

We'll collect all the hearts by 20th February and display them in the Canolfan windows.

You can:

- bring your heart to Beulah on Sunday 20th February when the Eco Group is leading worship
- post it through the Beulah letter box (down the side, by the office)
- give it to your Pastoral Elder or helper
- phone Eileen (20624967) and one of the Eco Group will collect it

We hope you will enjoy writing and sharing your climate messages and that they will lead to further conversations within Beulah and the community.

We know you'll have lots of ideas, but here are a few action possibilities to get you started!

- calculate and try to reduce my carbon footprint
- make my home more energy efficient and change to a renewable energy supplier
- save the planet one meal at a time by reducing meat consumption and shopping locally
- make enjoying and caring for nature a priority
- help protect species threatened by climate change, habitat loss and pollution
- keep plastic packaging out of circulation by trying to reduce, reuse and refill
- ask my MP to write to the PM and Chancellor calling for leadership and action on climate and nature

If you have any questions or comments, please contact one of the Eco Group:
Marianne Barwise, Mary Edwards, Ian McDowell, Eileen Newington

Rotas for Readers and Prayers

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to join the rotas. If you are not already on it and would like to be included on the reading rota, please contact me. (Details in Directory). The rota will continue to be printed each month in Crossroads, and there will also be a copy on the church porch noticeboard. If you need to swap, please amend this accordingly and let me know.

Pat Cazenave will be resuming the rota for intercessions, and will be approaching people directly. If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact Pat (details in Directory).

Louise Morgan.

	AV System Rota	Bible Readings	Prayers
February 6th	Richard Sweetnam	Gaynor Rees	Liz Kidd
February 13th	Harley Jones	Liz McCarthy	Jenny McDowell
February 20th	Nigel Barwise	Peter Ferdinando	Louise Morgan
February 27th	Andrew Glanfield	Huw Morgan	James Hall
March 6th Lent 1	Huw Morgan	Andrew Glanfield	Roger Bidnell
March 13th Lent 2	Andrew Glanfield	Louise Morgan	Pat Ruddock
March 20th Lent 3	Nigel Barwise	Colin Grimes	
March 27th Lent 4	Harley Jones	Richard Sweetnam	

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Visit us at.....

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www.beulahurc.org.uk/](http://www.beulahurc.org.uk/)

Contributions for the next
edition of Crossroads should
be submitted by
Sunday, 20th February and
Colin will be editing.

Please note,
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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
21 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH

