



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

**July/August  
2023**



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

[www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

**Part of the United Reformed Church Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate**

Dear Friends,

We recently heard a story about a family finding Jesus as their guest. Unfortunately, he became a bit awkward - so awkward, that while they did not kick him out of their home, they locked him under the stairs. Following Jesus is not always easy for he demands us to walk a challenging way of inclusion and care for those on the edges of society. At Beulah we try to hear his call to this and avoid locking him under the stairs. This has led to a surprising response to Graffiti Jesus this month.

As you will be aware, Graffiti Jesus had a Pride theme in June. This, unfortunately, led to some vandalism. In addition, we have received a letter - outlining concerns about the misdirection of Beulah in supporting LBGQTQIA+ people. The letter expresses fears about schools 'teaching' homosexuality and the creation of a corrupt society.

It may come as no surprise that our Pride themed Graffiti Jesus has caused some

controversy. Despite the letter's assertion that we are not aligned with God's values, we see Jesus clearly embodied by the work and community presence Beulah embodies. We seek to create a community for all people, with a deep awareness of many on the margins of society. We are living out Isaiah 56 where the prophet writes that God is creating a house of prayer for all people. On our inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people's journey, not only do we follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the Councils of the wider Church, we are open to the wisdom and knowledge of all the sciences doing work in areas of gender and sexuality.

Some people use Biblical text to resist the work others have done in these areas. They suggest that God condemns homosexuality, often citing the text about Sodom and Gomorrah. However, most modern Biblical scholars now view the condemnation in that passage as a response to

(Continued on page 3)

## CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

Well, the Summer Holidays are almost here already. During June, we have had some lovely weather and the Canolfan Garden is looking good (as always). This month in our joint Elders meeting, Martha has led us with Bereavement Training. It is always good to meet with all Elders together and it is reassuring to know we have similar thoughts and queries.

We thanked Pat Cazenave who has completed her extra time as Pastoral Elder; and Colin Grimes who has been delivering Pastoral Elder role over the last year. Thanks also to Geraint Richards for his time as Church Life Elder.

After the nomination and acceptance process, our new Elders, agreed at Church Meeting are: Church Life Elder and Pastoral Elder - Colin Grimes; and Pastoral Elders Marion Williams and Mary Bidnell. During the Summer, there will be a period of handover, and on 1st October, there will be an Induction Service, and lunch.

I am looking forward to our Pastorate Day-Out at Porthcawl, on 9th July, although there seems to be some rain forecast! It's also an opportunity to meet up

together with the other churches in the Pastorate.

be updated with the options available.



Beulah also hosted the Whitchurch Rhiwbina Birch-grove Prayers in June, led by Martha. This is rotated through many churches in each area and lasts for 30 minutes with time for refreshments after. Do look out for further dates if you are interested in attending.

We have had a few TED (Towards the End of the Day) Reflective Services on a Sunday evening, led by John Cheer (not forgetting Brenda and Emily). It is a lovely time to meet and reflect, ready for the week ahead. There is another service planned for the 23rd July and it would be great to see you there. It starts at 5pm for those who would like to be involved with music, reading and prayers; 5.45 p.m. for Tea and Cakes; and then the Service starts at 6 p.m.

In Church Meeting we also were made aware that the organ is not working properly. It stopped working during a service recently. It has been checked and we do require a new one. For the time being there is some output, however, it is all manually operated and no automated features work, i.e. harder to play. Thanks to all our musicians and we will

I hope you have a lovely Summer, please check out further information in this episode and note the dates in your diary for events coming up in September.

### Family News

Congratulations to Viv and Harley Jones who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this month. They will be in the Canolfan on 23rd July for Coffee after worship, please join them to celebrate. They also have special birthdays coming up this year so a triple celebration.

Many of our friends and members are at home or in hospital, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you back in Beulah soon.

Best Wishes,

Anne

**CONTACT**

### Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes,  
Revd. David Dean,



Church Secretary: Anne Wilkes,  
Church Treasurer: Barbara Rhys,  
Church Office: Email: [admin@beulahurc.org.uk](mailto:admin@beulahurc.org.uk)

## **Letter from the Manse**

(Continued from Front page)

the radical Hebrew understanding of the need to care for the sojourner, the traveler, the other passing through another's space and place. The citizens of Sodom are portrayed as doing the opposite: seeking to assassinate the sojourners, the travellers, the others.

Cult prostitution is condemned in the Bible – and these are references to same sex relationships - however, these texts do not refer to loving relationships. Instead, they are in keeping with the drive for justice, prohibiting the sexual exploitation of others. Homosexuality, as we know it now, simply was not a topic of the Bible.

As referenced above, in Isaiah 56 God welcomes the faithful eunuch and foreigner to God's house. This passage is the closest text we have to indicate God's intention for those whose sexuality might align to what we would today identify as a LGBTQIA+ person. It is very clear from this passage that sexuality, gender and nationality are not bars from being welcomed in God's community.

Jesus himself spends his recorded ministry reaching outside the traditional boundaries of the religious community. He interacts with women, with tax collectors, with foreigners,

with those who were disabled and ill. He does challenge people to change, but he never challenges people to change the fundamental aspects of who they are - not ethnicity or gender. The rich young ruler went away sad because he wasn't ready to give away his money, not because he was asked to change himself physically - only spiritually.



The events of the last couple of weeks remind us there is still prejudice against people in the LGBTQIA+ community. They experience exclusion and violence regularly. Graffiti Jesus is one way Beulah communicates God's loving presence. We are sad some have been hurt by God's message of welcome and inclusion, but there are others who have been touched and inspired by the message.

To the community of Beulah, thank you for taking this journey and being a place of openness

and spiritual exploration for all people - without question.

To the community of Rhiwbina, Beulah United Reformed Church is a place of acceptance. We are happy for you to be part of us. If you feel differently, we can have a conversation with you, but we are following God's ways. We may make mistakes, but our understand of God's inclusive love is not a mistake. Whoever you are, you are welcome here. We will continue to stand against injustice in any form.

To all those, and their families, in the LGBTQIA+ community, we see you. We lament the continued physical, spiritual, and emotional violence perpetuated upon you. We see you, and we stand with you.

To Jesus, when we fail to stand with those on the margins of society, we are sorry. We are grateful for the guidance you give us to live in love and take risks. Give us the energy to keep on the path you lay before us, embodying your love.

Yours in Christ,

*Martha and David*

Ministers, Cardiff &  
Penarth URC Pastorate



## KIN - Together we care and together we share

Thank you once again to all those who helped raise money during this year's Christian Aid week - either through generous donations or by helping out with envelopes and the Big Brekkie

Envelopes and Big Brekkie  
£740.33

Gift Aided £580

Online giving  
£105

Contactless  
£222

Gift Aid £72.75

Other money allocated recently by KIN:

Space4U ... £3,000  
(Mair's bequest)

Action for Children ... £200  
(New Year's Day Brunch)

Place2Be ... £300  
(Caffi Dosbarth)

Special congratulations and thanks to Caffi Dosbarth for raising this amazing sum!

### Dates for your diary

#### 10<sup>th</sup> September

KIN Meeting in The Studio (Canolfan) after morning worship.

Please grab a cup of coffee and come and join us to discuss and plan fundraising events within Beulah over the coming months. All are very welcome!

#### 17<sup>th</sup> September

Harvest Service and Barbecue (details to follow)

Thank You from

*the KIN committee*



*The* **United Reformed Church**  
National Synod of Wales

*Yr* **Eglwys Ddiwygiedig Unedig**  
Synod Cenedlaethol Cymru

The National Synod of Wales is pleased to invite you to  
a service of thanksgiving and release from  
duties for the work of  
**Revd Simon Walkling**



in the role of Moderator of the National Synod of Wales  
on **Saturday 5 August 2023** at 2pm  
with refreshments served after the service

at **St David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd** and  
online

If you wish to join us, please register at [bit.ly/URCRSVP](https://bit.ly/URCRSVP)  
or email [megan.price.urcwailes@urc.org.uk](mailto:megan.price.urcwailes@urc.org.uk) by Monday 10 July.

*St David's Uniting Church is a short walk from Pontypridd Railway Station.*

*Please note there is no parking at the church.*

Visit [bit.ly/PontPark](https://bit.ly/PontPark) for information on parking in Pontypridd.

## Thank you

Thank you very much to the Beulah family for the beautiful flowers delivered to me, I was very touched to receive them. Love and Best wishes to you all,

*Lynne (Davies)*

## Date for your Diary

The date is set for the Beulah Christmas Meal at Whitchurch Golf Club!

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Sign up sheets should go up on the Church Notice Board (in the porch) around middle of September, but don't forget to save the date!

Also, keep a look out for shows at the Wales Millennium Centre - sign up sheets in the porch!

# ROTAS

Date	Readers	Intercessions	AV	Flowers	Arranger
<b>July</b>					
16th	Colin Grimes	Anne James	Richard Sweetnam	Mary Edwards	Ann Brown
23rd	Sophie Jones	Nigel Barwise	Harley Jones	Kaye Mundy	Viv Jones
30th	Andrew Glanfield	Richard Edwards	Richard Sweetnam	Barbara & John R	Marianne B
<b>August</b>				Wedding Rachel Ware & Jon Dutton	
6th	Brenda Cheer	Tony Webb	James Hall		Karen
13th	Helen Harries	Ann Brown	Nigel Barwise	Alan Wilson	Beverley
20th	Roger Bidnell	Geraint Richards	Andrew Glanfield	Naomi & Martin	Ann B
27th	Derek Evans	Bev Hampson	Harley Jones	Heather Bishop	Ann B
<b>Sept</b>					
3rd	Louise Morgan	Giles Ballisat	Richard Sweetnam	Louise & Huw	Marianne B
10th	Naomi Williams	Richard Sweetnam	Nigel Barwise	Mary & Mike Warsop	Mary Warsop
17th	Pat Ruddock	Mark Stephens	James Hall	Marion Williams	tbc
24th	Giles Ballisat	Cathy Wales	Aandrew Glanfield	Heather Bishop	Viv Jones

	Elder on duty & Stewards (S)	Vestry Prayer	Communion		
			Minister's right	Minister's left	Preparation
			Prayer (P)		
July 16th	Philippa Ballisat	Beverley Clay			
	Giles Ballisat (S) Viv Morgan (S)				
July 23rd	Helen Harries	Ian McDowell			
	Ann Grimes (S) Ruth Williams (S)				
July 30th	Kaye Mundy	Eileen Newington			
	Cathy Wales (S) Andrew Glanfield (S)				
Aug 6th	Marianne Barwise	Jonathan Grimes	Geraint Richards	Secretary	Geraint Richards
	Naomi Williams (S) Anne James (S)		Jenny McDowell	Fiona Liddell (P)	
			Jonathan Grimes	Eileen Newington	
Aug 13th	Jenny McDowell	Louise Morgan			
	Viv Jones (S) Harley Jones (S)				
Aug 20th	Ruth Williams	Pat Agland			
	Jill Ferdinando (S) Peter Ferdinando (S)				
Aug 27th	Fiona Liddell	Marianne Barwise			
	Denise Dickman (S) Eleri John (S)				
Sept 3rd	Louise Morgan	Arlene Ramasut	Kaye Mundy Pat Cazenave Andrew Glanfield	Secretary Marianne Barwise (P) Ian McDowell	Kaye Mundy
	Andy Wales (S) Nigel Barwise (S)				
Sept 10th	Andrew Glanfield	Bev Hampson			
	Liz McCarthy (S) Mike Warsop (S)				

## Lunchtime Concerts Autumn 2023

In advance of the programme for the Autumn 2023, the group of Beulah members who volunteer to help at the concerts met together recently to discuss various matters concerning the Concerts. Sam Baxter was also present and was thanked for his excellent work so far.

However, of concern to us all was the fact that the Concert numbers are still not up to where they were before the pandemic struck (100 approx. per concert now 70 approx.) and we are now running the Concerts at a loss.

(I again want to thank Cathryn Hales for her generosity in seed funding the start of the series in 2008.)

As a result of our meeting it was decided with great reluctance to:

- put up the entrance fee for the Concerts, raising it from its current £5 to £8. We hope that this will solve the financial problem without losing too many

audience members. Students can still attend for £5.

- starting time will now also change to 1pm.

The programme for the Autumn is just being announced and is as follows:-

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> September  
Dafydd Allen - Tenor,  
Associate Artist at WNO  
for the 2022-2023 season

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
The Mavron Quartet  
making a return visit  
playing Schubert's  
famous quartet "Death  
and the Maiden"

Weds 29<sup>th</sup> November  
The Oneira Trio all prize  
winning ex WCMD  
students  
Flute, Viola and Harp.

Please pass information  
on to music loving  
neighbours and friends.

All are welcome.

*Trix*

## Come and Play

We will be holding a 'Come and Play' session for children aged 0 to 7, with their parents, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

In due course posters will be available and we will ask for your help in spreading the word to those within the church and beyond, so that it reaches those who enjoy bouncy castles, craft activities, games and other such fun!

But for now we are asking for anyone who would like to help on the day to contact Fiona.

Last years' event was highly successful, with 119 adults and children attending, most of them having no or little prior contact with the church., One of the secrets of success is having a plentiful number of helpers on the day and we are aiming for at least 12 this time.

If you would like to know more or are available and interested in helping let us know

*Fiona, Fleur and Hollie*

## Beulah Social

If anyone would like to join us to see **Sister Act** at the Wales Millennium Centre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, please sign the list in the Church Porch by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

*Ann*



## Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the



**September 2023**  
edition of **Crossroads** is  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**  
and **Colin** will be editing.

## Editorial Team

Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

Email: [crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk](mailto:crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk)



# Beulah United Reformed Church

## July 2023 All Welcome

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion – Revd. James Hall Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Pastorate Day out to Porthcawl No Beulah Service</b>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship – Revd. Andrew Sully; Christian Aid Junior Church Family BBQ after church</b>
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship – Revd. David Dean All Age Junior Church</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>TED – Reflective Service – Canolfan Beulah</b>
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.15 - 10.45am</b>	<b>WRB Prayers, Whitchurch Methodist Church</b>
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship – Mr. Matt Jones All Age Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion - Revd. Martha McInnes All Age Junior Church</b>

### Mondays

**Miss Tilley's Community Café**

**Women's Fellowship**

**Joint Elders Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**9 - 12.30pm** Term time

**2 – 3.00pm**

**7.30pm**

### Tuesdays

**Miss Tilley's Community Café**

**Beulah Tots** Last one 18<sup>th</sup> July for Summer Hols

**Theology on Tap: 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**9 - 12.30 p.m.** Term time

**9.30 - 11am** Term time

**7.30pm at the Deri Inn**

### Wednesdays

**The Huddle** Last one 5<sup>th</sup> July for Summer Hols

**11 - 12.30pm**

### Thursdays

**Caffi Dosbarth**

**9.30 - 12.00 noon** Term time

### Fridays & Saturdays

**Whittaker Lounge Café**

**10 - 12.30pm**

### Sundays

**Youth Fellowship.** Last one 2<sup>nd</sup> July for Summer Hols

**7.15 – 9.00pm** Term time

# Beulah United Reformed Church

## August 2023

## All Welcome

<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Wedding of Rachel Ware &amp; Jon Dutton</b>
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion - Revd. Martha McInnes All Age Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship – Mr. Geraint Richards All Age Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship – Mrs. Jenny McDowell All Age Junior Church</b>
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.15 - 10.45am</b>	<b>All Saints, Llandaff North</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship Mrs. Marion Williams &amp; Mrs. Louise Morgan All Age Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion - Revd. David Dean All Age Junior Church</b>

Miss Tilley's Community Café, Beulah Tots, Theology on Tap, The Huddle, Café Dosbarth & Youth Fellowship not on during the Summer Holidays.

### **Mondays**

**Women's Fellowship** Not on 28<sup>th</sup> Bank Hol

**2 - 3pm**

### **Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays**

**Whittaker Lounge Café**

**10 - 12.30pm**

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

## Dear friends at Beulah,

Watching Cardiff Singer of the World this past week has been not only a treat, but very nostalgic.

Memories of attending the finals night sitting round big round tables with Beulah friends at Cardiff Castle have flooded over me this whole week. I can't remember whether I joined in two or three times, but wow! such fun!

So, I thought I would drop Crossroads a line, to tell you all what I am up to these days.

After my husband Tom died in 2005, I moved from Barry to Thurso in the very north of Scotland and served at Thurso URC for four eventful years. Then, in 2009, I moved to Richmond, West London where I looked after two churches; Richmond URC, and Raleigh Road United Church (united with the Methodists).

In 2013, I got married again, to Andreas Wittenstein who was my classmate at Atlantic College. We went to Spain for our honeymoon, and ended up buying a 27-acre finca in an area known as Las Alpujarras about an hour's drive south of Granada. We moved here in September 2015 and have now qualified for permanent residency in Spain. Our marriage didn't work out, but we are great friends. Andreas



still lives in Finca Belluga up on the hill and I live down below in the middle of our village.

Most of my neighbours are traditional Spanish farmers who leave vegetables and eggs on my porch and laugh at my struggles with their local dialect. Other neighbours are English, Scottish, German, Swiss, and Dutch; all good friends. This part of Spain is full of writers, musicians and artists.

Our local town Órgiva has twelve choirs, one of which has become the hub of my social life. On Sundays, I host a small group of Quakers. My sister spends a lot of time in a lovely coastal town an hour's drive from here, so we see a lot of each other. Life is good!

The renovation of my house will be complete in September. Do get in touch if you would

like a peaceful week or two in a quirky paradise (except for July & August when it's more like the fires of the other place!)

Recommended reading: 'Driving over Lemons' by my neighbour Chris Stewart, who has written four books about life here.

Have a look at : <https://www.dragonpictures.co.uk>

- one of my neighbours is keeping a wonderful photographic record of the amazing sunsets we get here in our valley.

Welcome to Casa Cristina!

Wishing you every blessing,  
*Kristin*

Revd Kristin Ofstad

Minister in the North Cardiff  
Pastorate, 1992-2000



## Change Over Time



In this photograph of the Communion service on 4th June, you will notice that all the celebrants are women. This was, I am told, unplanned but it probably represents a first in the history of Beulah, since the Gospel readings and the Intercessionary prayer were also given by women Elders.

It certainly struck me as a very special moment, which is why I took this photograph and, afterwards, asked Martha, and the other participants, if they were happy for me to share the image. I felt that it clearly represented the enormous shift in attitudes and customs across the history of not just our

church but across the many other Christian churches and denominations.

In Beulah, our services are usually well balanced with men, women, young people and children taking part, but this was a particularly significant service in its composition. It was moving, meaningful and gentle for which I give thanks to Martha, Fiona, Anne J, Jenny, Anne W, Beverley and Philippa (not forgetting Dr Alun's contribution on the organ and Andrew Glanfield on AV!)

Arlene Ramasut

## Amalthea Ensemble for Joy of Learning

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, Penarth, the Amalthea Ensemble (Alice Cheer and Meg Diamond, featuring John Cheer) will be putting on a chamber concert to raise money for Joy of Learning (Emily Cheer's charity). Entry is free of charge, but donations are very welcome! Refreshments will be available, and there will be a Ugandan Craft stall as well. All are welcome, including families. Please do come along if you can for an evening of music from Villa-Lobos and Ravel to Beethoven and Weber, all whilst raising as much money as possible for Joy of Learning!

*See poster on page 11*

## THANK YOU

We should like to say how wonderful our Beulah bouquet of flowers were, and delivered by one of your young delivery girls! Thanks so much.

With love and blessings,  
*Don and Rubina*

## Church Family Barbecue Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July Everyone Welcome

Please sign up on the list in the Church Porch or contact Ann Grimes

## BEULAH SOCIAL

If anyone would like to join us, to see:

## An Officer and a Gentleman

at the  
Wales Millennium Centre  
on

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April,  
2024, please sign the  
list in the Church Porch.  
Tickets £36.

## HARVEST BBQ LUNCH

This year, we are following our Harvest Celebration Worship with a Family Barbecue.

This will be on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September**. If you wish to part of this, please sign your name on the sheet in the Church Porch.

Everyone is welcome.



# Amalthea Ensemble

*a chamber music concert for*

## Joy Of Learning

**Wednesday 12th July 2023, 7.30pm**

**All Saints Church, Penarth**

**Victoria Square, CF64 3EL**



**Alice Cheer (cello)** and **Meg Diamond (flute)** will be joined by **John Cheer (piano)**

to perform a programme of works by Villa-Lobos, Beethoven, Weber, Bozza, a brand new commission by Birmingham-based composer, **Millicent B**

**James** and more! Also featuring **Emily Cheer** who will be speaking about the incredible charity, **Joy Of Learning**.



**Entry free of charge, but donations are very welcome! No prior booking required. Plus...**

★ **UGANDAN CRAFT STALL & REFRESHMENTS** ★



@amalthea.ensemble

@joyoflearningug

joyoflearningug.com

amalthea.ensemble@gmail.com

joyoflearningug@outlook.com





# FOREVER Flowers

AT  
CARDIFF CASTLE  
CASTELL CAERDYDD



DEDICATE A DAISY



Celebrate life and  
remember those  
we cherish



In association with

Gwasanaethau  
Profedigaeth  
Caerdydd  
[www.profedigaethcaerdydd.co.uk](http://www.profedigaethcaerdydd.co.uk)



Cardiff  
Bereavement  
Services  
[www.cardiffbereavement.co.uk](http://www.cardiffbereavement.co.uk)

