



## Faith at the Crossroads .....

### Potting on ...

**B**y now you should have heard the news that I have accepted a job with the Council for World Mission based in Singapore. It's still sinking in for us. And I am excited to go and sad to leave.

I know people want to know a bit more about the work I will do, I have a job title: Secretary for Mission Development. But the exact duties will be shared with other programme staff and emerge out of the new team of people appointed.

The Council for World Mission is a worldwide partnership of Christian churches. The 31 members are committed to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission locally. The member churches are found in the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa, Europe, India, and South East Asia.

It has often been a pioneer in mission work. They used send British missionaries to the Empire and former colonies. They sent Dr Livingstone to Africa, and my parents too. They also sent Gaynor Rees to Botswana. But the ethos changed for the post-colonial era and CWM styled itself as a family of churches sharing personnel and resources in a spirit of partnership.

Realising that the majority of Christians lived outside of the West, CWM was the first to invite reverse mission. This meant missionaries were no longer from the West to the rest of the world, but from across the world to the whole world, missionaries came from India to the UK, Korea to Africa and so on.

This is how CWM describes their task at the moment: 'As we set out to fulfil God's vision and mission given to us we commit ourselves to the following strategic priorities during 2010-2019:

*Enable member bodies to develop missional congregations*

*Deepen partnership  
Reflect and research  
Exercise solidarity and prophetic witness*

*Ungirded by these principles:  
building life-giving community,  
equipping members for mission,  
seeking ways for renewal and  
transformation, sharing our com-  
mon resources and engaging with  
the world.*

My work will focus on developing missional congregations (encouraging local churches to discover fresh ways of being in mission in their communities) and devising ways to tackle global mission issues like climate change, economic justice and inclusive community, as well as specific issues from evangelism to inter-faith dialogue. CWM's ethos is that however global the issue there should be a local mission dimension to it.

I think you can see then why I would both be excited by such a post and be good for such a post. This is what my ministry has always been about and is what Beulah is all about too. I hope you can see that I am a seed/weed you are planting, and that so much of this next part of my life and ministry grows out of you and all we have shared.

This was the last verse of the last song we sang on the service I announced my departure

*When we set up camp and settle  
To avoid life's risk and pain  
You disturb complacent comfort  
Pull the tent pegs up again;  
Keep us travelling in the knowledge  
You are always at our side  
Give us courage for the journey  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.*

I am so very grateful and love and bless you deeply.

*peter*

# BEULAH CROSSROADS

**February  
2016**



The  
monthly newsletter of  
Beulah URC

# CHURCH NOTES

A very Happy and blessed New Year to all Beulah members and friends.

Christmas now seems a long time ago, but the richness of our services and the fullness of the fellowship which we enjoyed will surely carry us into the months ahead.

The Three Choirs Advent Service provided a reminder that these busy weeks are about more than shopping and cooking, and the moving Light for our Loss service allowed us space to remember and bless those we miss through death.

Our young people from the Senior Department brought their wide range of talents as actors, sound engineers, interviewers and news readers, (and Super Heroes!) but also showed their thoughtfulness and concern as they explored the meaning of heroism in the world today and in the Christmas story. The younger children delighted us, as usual, with Blessing the Crib on Christmas Eve afternoon – this is the moment when Christmas really begins!

A moving and reflective evening service led by the music group, Mid-night Communion on Christmas Eve and the Christmas morning celebration brought us, in different ways, into the joy and mystery of the Christmas story.

Many members and friends gave up their time again to host Christmas lunch to about 38 people who would otherwise have been alone on Christmas Day, as well as taking meals to the homes of six people unable to come to us. We thank all those involved in any way, on the day and before.

This year we were able to continue our celebrations through the Twelve Days of Christmas with Carols in the Barn on January 3. This was a very different experience, and we are grateful to Anthony Beer for his help in arranging this.

As a church we enjoyed many other activities – from Carol Singing around the village and the KIN Coffee Morning to the New Year's Day Brunch – which included a walk and two quizzes!

Beulah Players marked their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a trip down memory lane, re-visiting past productions, followed by a grand party on the Saturday night, which was enjoyed by many members, past and present. We congratulate Carol Coleman for all her dedication to Beulah Players and the Workshop over this time – and look forward to the next 30 years!

We are blessed in Beulah in having so many people willing and able to give their gifts and time at this busy time of year. I would like to give a particular mention to all our musicians, whose contributions have enriched our worship this year, and also to Karen and others for their beautiful flower arrangements and Christmas decorations, which added further depth to our Christmas worship, as well, of course, to Peter and Stephen for their leadership and reflections.

For some, the Christmas period has brought loss, and we were sad to hear of the death of one of our long-standing members, Mr D. Hugh Morgan. Hugh has worshipped here for many decades, serving as an Elder,

and Chairman of the Men's Meeting. He also served in the wider church as District Treasurer. His funeral took place on January 18 in Beulah, and we send our sympathy to Fraser and the family.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Gwen Stephens, whose funeral will take place in Beulah on February 5 at 1.00pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark and Avril and all the family at this sad time. We also send our condolences to Lynne James and family on the death of her husband, Jeff whose funeral was held here just before Christmas. We send our sympathy and prayers to Lorraine Larcombe and family on the death of her aunt and cousin on the same day in the week before Christmas.

We also send our deepest sympathy to the Rector of Whitchurch, the Revd. John Rowlands, and his family on the sudden death of his son-in-law at New Year.

Others have suffered illness, and it is with concern that we learned the news that the Revd. Peter Mortimer, Vicar of All Saints, suffered a stroke at the beginning of January. He is now home and we wish him a speedy recovery. Our prayers are with him, Lois and the children, and all our friends at All Saints at this difficult time. We also send our good wishes to Mary Bidnell and Peter Ferdinando who have both had hospital treatment recently, and to Cathryn Hales whose daughter, Juliet, is recovering from surgery.

We especially remember our friends who now live in residential homes,

*cont.. p3*

## Minister:

**Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley-Jones**  
9 Beulah Rd, Rhiwbina. CF14 6LT Tel: 029 2069 3517  
E-mail: peter.cruchleyjones@goolemail.com

## Church Secretary:

**Mrs Louise Morgan**  
Tel: 07773648730 / 029 2052 2782

## Church Treasurer:

**Mrs Barbara Rhys,**  
Tel: 029 2062 4574

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and send New Year greetings to  
Gwladys Brown, Evelyn Rees, Jean  
Ritchie, Olive Frost and Eileen  
Calford .

We also send greetings to  
Anne Escott who is now living in  
Cartef, and think of her as she tries to  
settle into her new life there.  
To any other friends and members  
who are experiencing ill-health or  
worry, we send our thoughts and  
prayers.

On a happier note, we are pleased  
to send birthday greetings to Lena  
Borgers, who celebrated a special  
birthday at the beginning of January.

The first Sunday of the year, as usual,  
saw us welcome our new elders and  
we were delighted to induct Gaynor  
Rees and Derek Evans, and ordain and  
induct Ian McDowell, Anne James,  
and Viv and Harley Jones (as a job-  
share). At this service we also thanked  
Lorraine and acknowledged all she  
has brought to the role of Church  
Secretary over the past five years. This  
service included my induction to the  
role, and I thank Peter for his moving  
words - and all of you for your  
support and encouragement. I have a  
lot to learn – thank you, Lorraine, for  
helping and guiding me through this  
transition time.

On January 24 we held a Church  
Family lunch, which was well  
attended and thoroughly enjoyed by  
all. Our thanks to Barbara, Pat and  
their team of Elders for serving us so  
well.

Finally, I would like to congratulate  
Peter on securing his appointment  
to the Council for World Mission as  
Secretary for Mission Development,  
and wish him success, fulfilment  
and happiness in this new challenge.  
We greeted the news with mixed  
emotions, and know that it will  
bring many changes – for Peter and  
Lena, Enfys and Eleri, as well as for  
ourselves as a congregation – but  
we will work through them together,  
and will look forward to a new  
and exciting time in our life as a  
congregation of God's people, here at  
the Crossroads in Rhiwbina.

*God bless,  
Louise.*

## Musings of a Ministerial Ordinand

As I write, I am aware of how different everything feels. It's not just because Peter will shortly be moving on, although that has made me more sensitive to changes not too far off for me. I now have very few college trips left to make to Manchester. When I began these journeys, four years ago, they seemed unending. Now I realise I am going to miss them; they are becoming oddly precious to me, because they are suddenly finite. I confess to a certain attachment; it's a reminder that all our journeys become part of us, just as we, on our journeys, also leave fragments of ourselves behind.

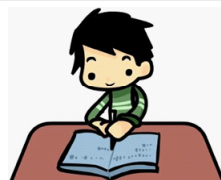
Every ending is also a beginning. So how to do an ending well, so as to fully embrace what lies beyond the turn in the road ahead? At least that was how I rationalised Manchester; but then a close friend mischievously asked me what new outlet I was going to find for my moaning, now the train journeys and the assignments were finally disappearing. Perhaps she knows me too well!

I think this is why I try to view every experience also as an opportunity for personal, inner change. Portia Nelson's "Autobiography in Five Chapters" is one of my favourite poems:

- 1) I walk down the street  
There is a deep hole in the pavement  
I fall in.  
I am lost....I am hopeless.  
It isn't my fault.  
It takes forever to find a way out.
- 2) I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the pavement.  
I pretend I don't see it.  
I fall in again.  
I can't believe I'm in the same place.  
But it isn't my fault.  
It still takes a long time to get out.
- 3) I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the pavement  
I see it is there  
I still fall in... it's a habit  
My eyes are open  
I know where I am  
It is MY fault  
I get out immediately.
- 4) I walk down the same street.  
There is a deep hole in the pavement  
I walk around it.
- 5) I walk down another street

As we come to Lent, and a time for contemplation, let's keep a look out for favourite holes. My word of the month is **change**.

*Stephen Best*



Please send your Junior Crossroads  
contributions to Andrew Glanfield:

[glanfieldar@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:glanfieldar@cardiff.ac.uk)

# KIN

## Together we care and together we share

Here you will find details of money raised and donated by KIN since November.

Sincere thanks to everyone for their hard work and generosity.

### KIN Funds raised 1 November 15 to date

#### November

Cardiff Council (Young People Leaving Care) (Bazaar funds)	£ 400.00
Bobath Cymru (Bazaar Funds)	£ 200.00
Homestart (Bazaar Funds)	£ 200.00
The Samaritans (Bazaar Funds)	£ 200.00
BBC Children in Need (raised by Junior Church)	£ 265.00

#### December

Space4U (accumulated funds)	£ 250.00
Barnardos Cymru (Rhiwbina Winter Festival)	£ 220.00
The Leprosy Mission (Rhiwbina Winter Festival)	£ 300.00
CRUSE (Light for our Loss Service)	£ 100.00
Space4U (accumulated funds)	£ 100.00
Cumbrian Floods (accumulated funds)	£ 150.00
UNICEF (Syria) (accumulated funds)	£ 150.00
Crisis at Christmas (Christmas Coffee Morning)	£ 231.50

**TOTAL £2,766.50**

#### January 2016

Christian Aid (Small Change boxes, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day)	£ 300.00
Present Aid (Blessing the Crib)	£ 405.00
[2 x Baby's First year gifts/3 x Child counselling in Syria]	
The Donkey Sanctuary (on-going adoption costs for Teddy)	£ 35.00
Stop the Traffik (Family Lunch/Beulah Alive Don/Beulah Christmas Card)	£ 673.20
Ty Hafan (Carol Singing)	£ 520.00

**TOTAL £1,933.20**

#### Earmarked

Travellers' Tales/Festival	£ 265.00
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BAR

21 Jan 16

Follow us on Facebook.....  
Join "Beulah Friends" and  
see up-to-date news and  
activities from around the  
Church.



#### Fish and Chip Babies - Knitting.

A really big thank you to all the knitters who have supported this appeal. I have been overwhelmed with the response from Beulah and beyond. I don't know who is knitting so please accept my gratitude expressed through this item.

Grand total since March 2015.

356 vests with hats  
120 cardigans with hats  
70 blankets

45 teddies  
146 vests  
119 hats

As you can see an amazing contribution. The doctor is visiting Malawi at the end of January. I am hoping to arrange for her to visit Beulah to talk about her experiences. I'm sure she would like to express her thanks personally.

*Thank you ,  
Love Elaine*

# Concerts at the Crossroads

Wednesday the 24th February at 1.05pm

**Cerys Jones – violin**  
**Christopher Murray – cello**

Rhiwbina born Cerys returns to Beulah with her duo cello partner Christopher Murray for this programme of classical music. They are both part of the internationally renowned Heath quartet who gave such a stunning concert last summer in Beulah. You don't need to go to the Wigmore Hall this February, just come to hear these two musicians in their programme of Bach, Mozart, Bartok and Ravel. The Wigmore Hall comes to Beulah!

Another date for your diary

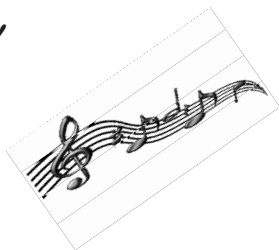
Wednesday the 30th March at 1.05 pm

**Anne Denholme – harp**

Anne is the newly appointed harpist to HRH Prince of Wales. She is a most outstanding harpist as you can imagine from that appointment.

Tickets £5 on the door

*All are welcome!*



*Croeso i Bawb!*

## BIG THANK YOU

to all at Beulah for supporting my 80th birthday challenge of a Zip Wire ride in North Wales.

I am pleased to say that together with Gift Aid I have raised nearly £4000 for Bloodwise, the Charity that researches into finding cures for some of the 137 types of blood cancer.

Anne Thomas



## LEADING WORSHIP

Over the past few years several members of the congregation have been involved with leading worship occasionally as part of our 'Worship Group'. This is not a specific group, and anyone who would like to participate is welcome. When Peter leaves in April, we may need to call more often upon people willing to help in this way, so it would good to increase the number of people available. Perhaps we should look upon this time as an opportunity to develop our skills and gifts in new ways.

If you would like to be part of a pool of people who are prepared to lead worship together occasionally, please sign your name on the list which will go up in the porch, or speak to me.

There would always be people in the group who have had some experience, and Stephen has kindly offered to provide "training sessions" in specific areas such as intercessionary prayers.

Thank you,  
Louise Morgan

## DISTRICT CHANGES

Some of you will notice that you are now in a different District from previously as there have been a few boundary changes, which mostly affect Districts 0 and 15.

Some families in District 0 have now been integrated into Districts 7 (Andrew Glanfield) or 13 (Lesley Richards), and will no longer receive Crossroads through the Mailshot but directly from their Elder. Others in District 0 who live further away will continue to receive their Crossroads through the post, but we no longer have a serving elder with oversight of these families. We hope to appoint some non-serving elders to take responsibility for this, but meanwhile, if anyone has any pastoral concerns then Louise Morgan is available to be a point of contact, especially once Peter has left.

Some families who were previously classed as District 15 have been moved into District 17 and Derek Evans will be their new Elder. If you have any questions about any of this, please speak to Louise.

## Portable Loop System

**H**earing aid users will already know the benefits of the 'Loop' system which has been installed in Beulah Church for many years. A similar system is also installed in the Lever Room but, as with the Church, it requires the use of a stand or hand microphone if speakers are to be heard directly into our aids.

The rest of our church buildings - the Whittaker Lounge and all other rooms in the Canolfan - have no such facility and, together with poor acoustics, make hearing at meetings etc very difficult. Beulah has therefore acquired a portable loop system which can be used in any of these rooms and is ideal for meetings of up to 20 or more. It consists of a neck mic for the leader or Chair plus two omni-directional mics which can

be located at convenient spots around the room to pick up the voices of all other participants. It is wireless and uses Bluetooth technology. Listeners wear a small receiver attached to a neck loop (we have five of these) and switch their hearing aids to the 'loop' setting.

The system is stored in the upstairs office and needs to be re-charged after use. Any group wishing to take advantage of this system will need to have one member familiar with how it works and I will provide the necessary training. To make arrangements please contact me by email on

[jderekevans@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jderekevans@yahoo.co.uk).

It really can make a huge difference to those of us who struggle to hear.

*Derek Evans*

## **MARGARET WHITTAKER LOUNGE**

**A**fter a great deal of thought, the AMWL Committee has taken the decision to end the Monday coffee lounge service at the end of February 2016. This is as a consequence of the very low number of customers on that day.

The lounge will remain open on Wednesdays through to Saturday- we are still looking for more volunteers to join the rota for these days so if you, members of your family, or your friends are able to help, do contact me - I would love to hear from you.

For the future, we are presently evaluating a range of coffee machines which will enable us to provide a wider range of beverages.

*Christine Pugh*

## **Carols in the Barn**

**F**rom an idea conceived at the Caldey retreat to a windy, rainy January night near Llantwit Major, quite a journey had been undertaken already. We didn't know what to expect but on arriving we were certainly not disappointed. Yes it was a "proper" stable and we were the guests of the sheep, cows, ducks, chickens and of course Dora the donkey who joined in with our celebration.

It was a lovely evening of words and song by torch light punctuated by the rain on the tin roof and the antics of the animals.

Grateful thanks to those who organised the evening and to everyone who took part in this special service.

Also thanks to Gill and David Powell for inviting us to their farm and to Anthony Beer for welcoming us there.

*"She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger" Luke 2 v7*

*Ruth Williams*

*\*See p.11 onward*



## **World Women's Day of Prayer - 4th March 2016**

The World Women's Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00 pm at All Saints' Church, Rhiwbina. This year the service has been created by the women of Cuba who have chosen the theme, "Receive Children. Receive me."

This is a very special service as women all over the world celebrate it during a 24 hour cycle.

Mary Bidnell and I would like to give a very warm invitation to everybody - women and men - to this service and also to share fellowship and refreshments afterwards.

"Dewch yn llu !" Hard to translate but can be summarised as Come in your hundreds!" We hope to see you there.

*Diane Burton.*

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Yet again a fantastic response from Beulah and friends..We donated 128 boxes up on last year's total.

Girl 2-4 years 5 boxes

Boy 2-4 years 6 boxes

Girl 5-9 years 55 boxes.

Boy 5-9 years 42 boxes

Girl 10-14 years 7 boxes

Boy 10-14 years 13 boxes.

A big thank you to all who contributed - those who donated shoe-boxes, money, gifts and knitted items. I'm sure many of you are grateful to Lynne who wraps the boxes for so many - an awful task I think. A personal thanks to Eleri John who helped me sort out boxes from Whitchurch High School. Their donation totalled 28 shoeboxes and many useful items. I could not end without saying thank you to Colin Grimes who transported the shoe-boxes to Llandow Trading Estate making 3 trips. I hope I haven't forgotten anybody. I am very grateful for all your support over many years. Together we have helped suffering children experience some love and joy in their lives.

*God bless, Elaine*

## Canolfan Garden

### Planting Days for your diary

We plan to do some work on the Canolfan Garden on two days in early spring.

These are provisionally set for

*Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb  
(starting 10 am)*

*Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March*

Further information will be in the announcements in Church.

If you might be able to help for either of these days please contact Ian McDowell on

[ian.mcdowell@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.mcdowell@ntlworld.com)

who can give you more information nearer the date.

## Tea-Time with the 'Mini-bus' Ladies



On the afternoon of January 10, our team of volunteer drivers was hosted by their passengers to a slap-up tea in the Whittaker Lounge. We enjoyed a wonderful hour of delicious cakes, unlimited supplies of tea, and lots of happy and noisy chat. Our brains were challenged by a very cryptic horticultural quiz – which was surprisingly won by a team of definite non-gardeners!

Elinor Ludlow reminded us of how the mini-bus idea came into being, about 50 years ago. When Joan Ridley's first husband, Bob David, died, she thought a fitting memorial would be the purchase of a minibus to transport the elderly members of Beulah to church. The first mini-bus was a rather run-down, unreliable Ford Thames 15cwt conversion, but the young people of the Youth Fellowship started to raise funds for a new one. Years of events such as jumble sales, sponsored runs, social evenings and concerts followed – including the collection of thousands of Green Shield stamps (remember those?), eventually enabling us to buy a brand new minibus in 1972. Since then, there have been several successive 'buses, and then we had the use of the Good Neighbours 'bus. More latterly, the ladies have been brought to church in the drivers' own cars – and now, all these years later, Joan herself enjoys her lifts to church, with Elinor, Bronwen, Joyce and sometimes Mary. We would like to thank them all for a wonderful afternoon, and we must also thank Elinor for making sure the drivers are reminded when it's their turn, and finding out who is coming week by week, and Colin for organising the rota.

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016

**29 FEBRUARY - 13 MARCH**

'Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers' is the message the Fairtrade Foundation is sending out ahead of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight.

As Martin Luther King famously said: "Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world". Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks, and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

The Fairtrade Foundation campaigners will be encouraging as many people as possible in their community to eat an ethical breakfast during Fairtrade Fortnight – and wake others up to the challenges facing farmers and workers.

We are planning to hold our own Fairtrade Breakfast one Sunday morning during Fairtrade Fortnight. Details to come soon.



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY, 2016**

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Church Office
	10.30 am	Mid-week Meeting Point
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm	Youth Drop-In
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b> <b><i>Food Bank</i></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones</b> <b><i>Coffee served after service in Canolfan</i></b> <b>United Communion Service at Beulah</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Church Office
	10.30 am	Mid-week Meeting Point
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	KIN Cake Stall in Margaret Whittaker Lounge
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones</b> <b><i>Children in Departments</i></b> <b><i>Coffee served after service in Canolfan</i></b>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 - 12.30	Come & Play
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	No Church Office
	10.30 am	Mid-week Meeting Point
	7.30 pm	Faith Matters
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Mr Stephen Best</b> <b><i>Communion Service</i></b> <b><i>Coffee served after service in Canolfan</i></b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Church Office
	10.30 am	Mid-week Meeting Point
	1.05 pm	Lunch Time Concert
	7.30 pm	Faith Matters
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	WRB Prayers, Bethel
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b> <b><i>Paradise Run</i></b> <b><i>Collection</i></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones</b> <b><i>Coffee served after service in Canolfan</i></b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Worship in Whittaker Lounge:</b> <b>Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones</b>

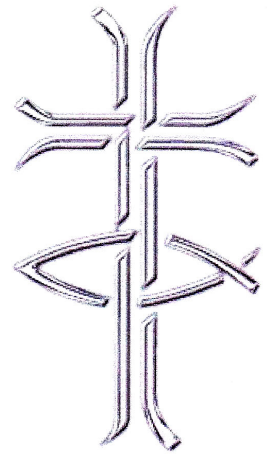
### **MARCH**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	Church Office
	10.30 am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Faith Matters
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	World Women's Day of Prayer, All Saints
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b> <b><i>Food Bank</i></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones</b> <b><i>Coffee served after service in Canolfan</i></b> <b>United Communion Service at All Saints</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	

## Faith Matters: The circle in the sweep of history

On 16th December we picked up the timeline exercise of the previous session and delved a little deeper. We looked at four scenarios:

1. The wilderness years following the exodus from Egypt (circa 1200's BC)
2. The dedication of the new temple after the return from Babylonian exile (circa 400's BC)
3. Christianity as it sought to define itself having become the official religion of Empire (circa 300's CE)
4. The Great Ejection: the split between the Church of England and the dissenting traditions over the book of common prayer (1660's CE)



We found remarkable similarities in the experiences of those who lived through these very different times. People had aspired to and found a sense of freedom, yet that was subsequently modified by an apparent need for rules and social conformity. Whereas some good was achieved, there was always a resulting cost, a price to be paid in order to achieve a sense of belonging, as well as casualties and sacrifices to be made in the name of discipleship.

We wondered whether faith was in any way attached to or part of these events. Was this progress and change (which we identified as a cycle of repetition) faith inspired or did faith merely journey alongside history? What did that say to us about faith? We recognised that these key historical events contributed to our understanding of who we are and to the formation of our identities as individuals and communities, but how faith underpinned this was uncertain. We noted that we still have not found a good definition or understanding of what precisely faith is. It seems curiously independent of whatever we look at.

This led us to a brief, preliminary discussion on the apparent unquestioning strength of some people's faith in the face of opposition and trauma and on different ways of how we might understand God.

On 7th January an exploration of the Christmas Reflections gave us an opportunity to look at different ways of understanding and interpreting scripture. We thought about how we honour and hold together a broad range of theological views, reflecting the diversity which is an integral part of our own community.

### And so into Lent.....

Peter and I decided that it made sense to continue with these sessions through Lent. At the moment we plan to work through the following topics, but as always we want this to be a responsive, organic journey, so if things come up which the group would rather do, then they will take precedence:

**Wed 17th Feb** (God: who/what is God & where do our understandings come from)

**Wed 24th Feb** (Church: what is it for and why do we bother with it)

**Thurs 3rd Mar** (Christology: different ways of relating to and understanding Christ)

**Thurs 10th Mar** (Atonement: different interpretations of Jesus' life and ministry)

**Wed 16th Mar** (Resurrection: different ways of embracing the Easter witness)

As ever, each session will stand alone and so please feel free to come to some or all, even if you have not been before.

*Stephen*

## BEULAH SNOOKER 2016

It's time to hold our Annual Snooker Knock-out Competition. This is open to all (over the age of 14) who can wield a snooker cue, and the entry sheet will be displayed in the Vestibule/Church Porch over the coming weeks.

If you wish to enter this prestigious competition, please add your name and telephone number to the list, or email or phone me.

In order to get the competition underway, with the hope that we can complete before Easter, the draw will take place on the 15th February, so names must be on the list by 14th February.

*Colin.*



# Who's Doing What and When

Mini-Bus Driver Duty Elder

Stewards

Pulpit Reader

## February

7th	am	Tony Webb	<b>Andrew Glanfield</b>	Betty Evans & Gill Grivas	<b>Andy Wales</b>
	pm		<b>Andrew Glanfield</b>	<i>United Communion service at Beulah</i>	<b>Huw Morgan</b>
14th	am	Harley Jones	<b>Ann Brown</b>	Betty Hulston & Richard Sweetnam	<b>Heather Bishop</b>
21st	am	Ian Budding	<b>Audrey Budding</b>	Bev Hampson & Glenys Scott	<b>Vera Ruddock</b>
28th	am	Mike Warsop	<b>Gaynor Rees</b>	Elinor Ludlow & Jenny McDowell	<b>Pat Agland</b>
	pm			<i>Evening worship in Margaret Whitaker Lounge</i>	

## March

6th	am	Huw Morgan	<b>Philip Edwards</b>	Chris Phelps & Kaye Mundy	<b>Anne Thomas</b>
	pm			<i>United Communion at All Saints</i>	
13th	am	Colin Grimes	<b>Lorraine Larcombe</b>	Geoff Griffiths & Colin Grimes	<b>Rubina Lewis</b>
20th	am	Keith Jones	<b>Anne James</b>	Denise Dickman & Pam Penny	<b>Audrey Budding</b>
24th		<b>Maundy Thurs</b> 7:30	<b>Nigel Barwise</b>		
25th		<b>Good Friday</b> Noon			
27th		<b>Easter Sunday</b> am	<b>Richard Edwards</b>	Christine & Duncan Pugh	<b>Betty Evans</b>
	pm			<i>Evening Communion in MWL</i>	



## Flower Rota

### February

7th	Alan Wilson
14th	Mrgaret Clee
21st	Denie & Ron Leech
28th	Laura & Chloe Davies

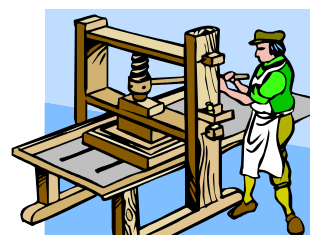
### March

6th	Mary & Lesley Richards
13th	Tina Taverner
20th	Sally & Rhian Jones
27th	Marg & Alun Jones



## Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the March edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 21st February, and Colin will be editing.



Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

e-mail: [crossroads@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crossroads@hotmail.co.uk)

A few pictures from "Carols in the barn", thanks to Colin !







