



Faith at the Crossroads

BEULAH CROSSROADS

**April
2016**



The
monthly newsletter of
Beulah URC

We are sitting in Lena's natural habitat: by the sea in bright sunshine with a strong wind full of the future's promise driving powerful waves onto Newgale beach. We are happy in our post wedding bubble feeling extraordinarily blessed.

Our minds are full of many things: The wedding and the gathering up, the moving and the breaking apart, the love and the belonging.

What a day we had and what extraordinary people you are to bring about such a day in so many ways! When the bride almost exceeded her privilege to be so very late all I felt was peace and certainty in Beulah's shelter and Lena's choice of me.

Holy week and Easter laid out a story and a canvas resplendent with love's many colours and textures. The empty tomb and our filled again hearts combined to testify to God's blessing of life. Our lives especially.

Family and friends, faith and flowers, music and word, pompoms and bubbles sent us into a commitment Lena's vows expressed so profoundly and beautifully for

her and for us.

Our Holy Week journey reminded us of the choices life sends us, the moments that remind us life is real and passing. All of this challenges us to love hopefully and generously and we certainly feel this from you all. The gifts you have given us for our wedding, the blessing you have poured on our marriage and the shelter you gave to our relationship are all things we treasure only less than we treasure all of you.

We are soon to travel under a new name and new skies. But the wind and waves of God's love break over us all wherever we are. They turn our hearts to his common call to love each other and trust in him and the life-changing mission to which he calls us.

We take hope from the going, feel sadness in the parting but great joy in our belonging. We love you fantastic, strange, odd, generous, creative and beautiful Beulah people!

Peter and Lena

CHURCH NOTES

Holy Week and Easter have again been marked in Beulah in moving and distinctive ways, bringing us all closer into the most difficult and painful season of the Christian year. Each night in the Meditations, Peter led us to think about the challenges and choices that Jesus had made each day, reflecting on the crossroads that he faced throughout that last week. The opening of our Maundy Thursday service, which depicted the table as it might have looked after the Last Supper had finished, took us dramatically into the story of that night. As always, we were deeply moved at the way in which the children and Young People told the story on Good Friday, in which they posed questions about what would have happened had the key figures in the story made different choices. The service closed with Peter removing the picture of Graffiti Jesus which had hung in front of us all week, and crumpling it on the ground before the wooden cross, bringing to us such an unexpected sense of loss and desolation. We then sang our Good Friday hymn alongside our blood-red tree, providing another vivid and dramatic reminder of the death of Jesus. Easter morning saw about 70 enthusiastic people get up with the lark to meet in the garden to celebrate the resurrection before coming inside to escape the rain and share in the Easter Breakfast. The morning service was a wonderful, joyous celebration, and it was a delight

to see the church so full, as members, friends and visitors came to raise their voices in praise of the Risen Lord – and once more dance the conga around the church! The evening communion service, led by Sarah Edwards and Alun Jones, provided a quiet and reflective space to end such a full and busy week. We have heard about the many crossroads that Jesus faced throughout that last week, and this reminds us of the crossroads that we often face in lives, as individuals, and as part of the communities and institutions to which we belong. Beulah is facing one of those crossroads now, and choices have to be made, by us and others. Reference has already been made to the consultation process over the deployment of ministry in Cardiff. Elders have been working hard to consider our response to these consultations, and we want everyone to feel that they have a voice in this, so we will be discussing some of the issues during the morning service on April 10. The children and young people will also be invited to have their say in their departments.

CHURCH NEWS

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Mrs Joan Cottrell, whose funeral service was held in Beulah on Friday, April 1st. Joan was a member here for many years, and was actively involved in many parts of church life, especially in Junior Church. Our sympathies go to Stephen, Bryn and all the family.

We also send our condolences to Keirsten and Steve Eales, along with Nick, Juliet and Ollie, on the death of Keirsten's father in Canada.

Congratulations are sent to Pat and Cyril Cazenave, and Mair and Gwyn Williams who have each celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries recently, and to Jean and Al Rogers on celebrating 65 years of marriage.

My predecessor, Lorraine Larcombe, will be celebrating a very special birthday on April 16, so we send her our best wishes for a happy day. Evelyn Rees will be 99 years old on April 11 and we send our greetings and prayers to her too.

On March 28 the marriage of Peter and Lena, conducted by Stephen Best, took place in a beautifully decorated church, witnessed by their families, friends and members of the church. Once again, we send the congratulations and best wishes of the congregation to them both.

Peter and Lena will soon be leaving Rhiwbina, and on April 16 we are all invited to an evening of entertainment, food and fellowship to mark Peter's 15 years as the Minister of Beulah. The next day there will be a family communion service before Peter and Lena leave for Singapore later that afternoon.

*Blessings,
Louise*

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Musings of a Ministerial Ordinand

I am writing this during Holy Week, to meet the Crossroads deadline, in expectation of it emerging the other side of Easter. This is the season when I am very cautious about firm plans; it is quite an irrational - even superstitious - response, as we all need to continue to mark dates in our calendars and get on with all our preparations. But Easter reminds us that we dare not set anything absolutely in stone; they get rolled away! In the gospel story, the public jubilation of Palm Sunday sours dramatically, within just five days, to condemnation and abandonment. An ignominious and cruel death follows. Then a miracle; a totally unexpected, transformative experience; a revelation for those who had been closest to Jesus, kindling the birth of a faith movement, which reaches even to us nearly two thousand years later. The Easter story we re-live every year is in one sense an artificial journey, as we already know on Good Friday that Easter Sunday is waiting in the wings. To properly know Good Friday, we need to understand and feel that the original Calvary truly felt like an ending. This year, of all years, we at Beulah touch something of the true Easter spirit, with Peter's departure imminent and the uncertainty over new patterns of ministry for Cardiff. But we still have the comfort of anticipating something new for Beulah emerging in the coming months, even as Peter and Lena look forward, with our blessing, to a new life on the other side of the world. In all this we have faith, and for that reason we continue to firm up our plans and write in our calendars. So I wonder what things will look like when you actually read this and how I will feel, looking back on these words I projected into the future, when I see them in print. What was merely expectation and what will actually have happened? It is faith's promise that, whatever emerges, God - however we each understand God - was, is and will be with us. My word of the month is transformation.

Stephen Best

Here are the winners of the Easter Competition from the last Crossroads

The Primary Easter Egg colouring Competition had 2 winners, Arwyn and Eden.

(Look online for the winning pictures!)

The Juniors Easter Joke Competition winner was Ieuan.

Ieuan's Joke - Q. Why did the Rabbit cross the road ?
 A. Because it was the Chicken's day off !

The Seniors Easter Joke Competition winner was Chloe.

Chloe's Joke - Q. How do you post a bunny ?
 A. Hare mail !

Well done to them and we hope they enjoy their Easter Eggs!

Gill

Please send your Junior Crossroads contributions to Andrew Glanfield:
glanfieldar@cardiff.ac.uk

The Junior Church Leaders would like to say a BIG 'Thank You' to the following people

Carol Coleman - for her magnificent work with the children and young people to produce the Good Friday Drama. We don't know how she manages to turn it around in such a short space of time whilst also not knowing how many children she will have to work with! We also appreciate the preparation work done beforehand to produce the script.

John and Brenda Cheer - for their boundless enthusiasm and energy as they worked with the children and young people to produce music for the Easter Sunday service. We appreciate the time they give up for the practices and the patience required when working with different groups of children on different days. The children sounded wonderful and their beaming smiles showed how much they all enjoyed it too.

Finally, Gill would like to thank the 3 elders who became 'Guardians of the Sweets and Easter Eggs' for the Easter egg Hunt after church on Easter Sunday, and also the JC leaders who helped ensure the little ones were well provided for too. The hunt was held in the hall at Canolfan due to a soaking wet garden and I don't think the 'Guardians' knew what they were letting themselves in for! Mobbed by over 30 children who all wanted their fair share of the produce, they bravely held on tight to the goodies until 'eggs' could be shown and swapped for them. The children were delighted and some could be seen happily munching their way through their collection of sweets later on whilst the adults had coffee. Thanks to everyone who cleared up too.

Faith Matters during Lent

Our exploration of our own and some contemporary understandings and expressions of Christian faith continued during Lent. If anyone did not receive the handouts and would like them, please ask me for a copy.

God: we looked at different understandings of God, including getting beyond the idea of God as male and God as a person. We were reminded that whatever name or description we give to God it will never be satisfactory or complete.

Church: we did some 'speed-dating' around different ideas and descriptions of church. We explored how church is often mistaken for a building or something we go to, but in fact church is something we are and do together.

Christology: we explored creatively what shapes our very diverse impressions, images and understandings of Jesus Christ. We examined the contributory role played by both our own unique, personal life experience and also the diverse depictions of Jesus in the gospels.

Atonement: we looked at the very different understandings of at-one-ment which have developed over the last two thousand years and how they are linked to the message, life and actions of Jesus. We examined some of these with the aid of film clips from Les Misérables.

Resurrection: we looked at some contemporary understandings of resurrection after examining and comparing the narrative differences and developing theologies contained in the four gospels. We also looked at how resurrection is also understood as something which happened in the disciples - and its relevance for us as the contemporary members of the body of Christ.

Sometimes we were cafe-style and sometimes we sat together as one group. Whatever we did, it was a pleasure to see so many of you engaged and willing to share. We did not always agree and that is such a healthy thing; church should be a safe space where we can engage in honest and open difference, in a climate of mutual respect. No one person has all the answers, but we are each part of the answer. From my point of view, it was rewarding to bring to local church some of what is nowadays being discussed in theological college; this is where it belongs and needs to find expression, so it can be properly owned.

Stephen Best

SARAJEVO - BOSNIA

As some of you know I have been travelling to Sarajevo for the last 6 years to work for two weeks with Healing Hands Network and I am planning on going again this year towards the end of June. This is a small charity that works with victims of war - victims that are referred to the charity by Concentration Camp Victims Association, Victims of Torture Association and Civil Victims Association. Many of the personal stories are heart breaking. The charity sends professional Complementary Therapists to do this work. They generally send therapists in pairs for two weeks at a time although last year I was sent on my own. This year I am planning to complete a Sprint Triathlon on April 23rd in order to raise the £800 I need for this. If anyone would like to sponsor me - please see me or you can do so via Mydonate.bt.com

Please don't feel any pressure to donate as I am well aware how generous Beulah folk are to so many causes, but I felt you would like to be aware of what I was doing.

Mary Bidnell

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



Concerts at the Crossroads

Concerts at the Crossroads

Wednesday April 27th at 1.05pm

Seren Winds

A wind quintet from the RWCMD

This group of postgraduates from the RWCMD come most highly recommended from the College. It is so good that Beulah can offer performing opportunities as it is important when you have just left College to keep practicing your performing skills. There's nothing like a live audience! They are presenting a really varied programme with composers like Gounod and Brahms plus some lighter ones.

Tickets £5 on the door as usual.

More lunchtime recital dates for your diary

May 25th Wales Baroque Players

June 29th Rhodri Taylor – clarinet, Mary Jean O'Doherty – soprano and Caradog Williams – piano

EVENING CONCERT JULY 8th at 7.30pm

When Charlie Lovell-Jones performed last year in a lunchtime recital the audience were bowled over by his mature playing and delightful personality. There is a prodigy in our midst! The whole family is deeply musical with his marimba playing older brother now at the RAM in London and his younger sister Lizzie already winning instrumental prizes on her cello.

The whole family are coming on July 8th to give us an evenings entertainment. Please book it now as it promises to be a lovely evening.

Tickets £10 available from mid April from Marg on 20627987 or Trix 20765177

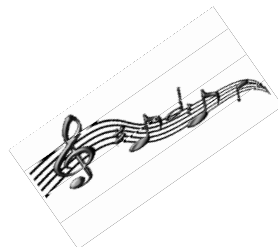
Also there is a cheese and wine buffet to follow which must be pre booked as numbers are limited.

Tickets for this are £6 also from the above.

Any Beulah family is most welcome to bring their children free of charge to the concert.

All are welcome!

Croeso i Bawb!



Eleri and Elaine would like to say many, many thanks to everyone who came to our tea/coffee/cakes morning on 5th March in aid of the Eve Appeal. With generous donations the total came to £1832. Such a good amount and we are so grateful to you all for your support for research into women's cancers.

In addition we have been generously given a voucher for Jump in Llanishen - for a family of two adults and up to three children so , look out in the church notices in April for the date when we will be holding a raffle , and this will be one of the prizes!

Many thanks again, E+E

Sight Loss at Church

Beulah disability access group has recently been exploring the issues and challenges faced by individuals experiencing sight loss within our congregation.

Many of us have experienced the need to move on to reading or distance glasses, or require increased level of light to do tasks. People of all ages experience sight problems, 3 in 100 will experience significant functional problems. The effects of eye diseases vary hugely, creating a challenge as to how to support those individuals to participate in church life. Macular degeneration will affect central sight, limiting detailed tasks such as reading and recognizing friends, whereas glaucoma will often restrict peripheral vision, affecting mobility problems on stairs and in busy places. Cataracts will cause cloudy vision, requiring strong contrast in furnishings to improve safety, but the strong light they require may be painful for those experiencing diabetic retinopathy. So how do we best support individuals with sight loss?

Some helpful guidelines include

- If greeting someone that has a sight problem, say your name so they don't have to guess at voices. When they are in a meeting make sure that all make it clear who is being addressed, who is present and if someone is leaving, to allow full participation.
- Use clear print e.g. black on white, no picture or graphics underneath, and a font size of 14+, in Arial, keep to capitals and lower case.
- Worship leaders need to bear in mind above guidance when using overheads and need to describe pictures and videos when possible. Alternatively the person sitting next to them needs to quietly describe these.
- Ensure good lighting is maintained, signs are kept clear, and walkways free, particularly on stairs.
- The local traffic lights have a cog underneath the box which rotates when the green man shows, so a blind person can be aware when the green man is showing. Many visually impaired people like to maintain their independence, but others might like to be offered a hand to cross the road. If you are guiding someone with sight loss, always go in front and offer them your elbow to hold. Many will not carry a white stick, but may still struggle.
- Be careful of religious language that historically links blindness to punishment, as this is detrimental to those coming to terms emotionally with a life changing eye condition. But, don't change your language to avoid sighted words, as language then becomes clumsy.
- If you are unsure how to help an individual, ask them.

Elders and worship leaders will be offered visual awareness training as part of this project, the congregation also will be welcome to attend to find out more. There will also be a store of information and support available to those supporting people with sight loss, such as local Social Services, RNIB, and Torch.

The group would love to hear more from people experiencing sight problems so we can do our best to meet their needs at church and in their home life. Please speak to Marianne Barwise if you want to know more in connection to sight loss. Other members of the group are Louise Morgan, John and Brenda Cheer, Derek Evans and Vera Rudock.

(In this edition, I have, as far as possible tried to follow Marianne's guidelines - perhaps you would let me know if the changes are helpful ... Ed)

Pastoral Care

We are fortunate in Beulah in having a well-established system of Elders' Districts, where each Elder cares for a specific group of members and adherents. However, when there is no minister, the lines of communication become even more important, and more support from non-serving elders and other members of the congregations may be needed at times.

The Pastoral Committee recently discussed the way forward and it was suggested that a Pastoral Team would be set up to go beyond the current pastoral group, to support the elders in their work. This would consist of a list of people prepared to visit people in immediate crisis, such as in hospital or when experiencing illness or bereavement. If anyone was in such need, or knew of someone who was, they would contact the Pastoral Team coordinator, who would approach someone on the list to visit. This is not instead of the pastoral care of the Elders, but an additional layer of support. Ann Brown has agreed to take on the role of coordinator for this. The idea of appointing carers for each district was also discussed, whose roles could include delivering Crossroads, as some do at present, but also to visit and make contact by phone. If you would like to consider becoming a pastoral visitor or carer, please can you speak to Louise.

We have a number of people available to conduct baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as several Elders who are authorized to preside at communion. It is important that those who wish to continue to receive Home Communion are able to do so, and Pat Cazenave has offered to co-ordinate this ministry for us.

Yet another “Thank You”

In the age that we now live there are always causes and people everywhere that need our help and gifts of money. I was once again amazed at the kindness and generosity of my Beulah family at the cake sale I held a few weeks ago.

As you already know I use all the money to send needed items to my friends in Navodari and Mangalia, in Romania.



So the money went to help with the postage, buying of toothpaste, brushes and soap. Donated clothes and some I bought also went including indoor slippers knitted by a friends church. I also sent money to buy a particular family a fridge so their food will keep for longer and they can keep it safe from rats.

This is just one of the families you are helping. Dad has left Fastaca with 8 children, 2 boys and 6 girls. She was amazed when told she could have a fridge freezer and was given clothes for the children. She has no help other than my friends Ancu and Beni –a pastor.

You cannot imagine the difference you help to make to families there that have nothing of what we would class as everyday items.



All I can say again is thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your support in the midst of help needed everywhere.

Blessings and love

Denise

Church Calendar

APRIL, 2016

- Sunday 3rd:** 10.30 am: Mr Stephen Best – All-Age Worship
 Baptism of Magwen Roach
 Coffee served in Canolfan after service
 6.00 pm: United Communion Service in Bethany Baptist
- Monday 4th: 7.30: Special Elders' Meeting
- Weds 6th : 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30 am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
- Saturday 9th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall
- Sunday 10th:** 10.30 am: Mr Stephen Best
 Junior Church
 Coffee served in Canolfan after service
- Weds 13th: 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30 am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
- Saturday 16th: 6.00pm: Leaving Party for Peter and Lena
- Sunday 17th:** 10.30 am: Revd. Dr. Peter Cruchley Jones
 Family Service with Communion
 Coffee served in Canolfan after service
- Weds 20th: 10.30am Church Office
 10.30 am Mid-Week Meeting Point
 7.30 pm: Beulah Alive
- Sunday 24th:** 10.30 am: Worship Group
Paradise Run Junior Church
Collection Coffee served in Canolfan after service
 6. 00pm: Service led by the Youth Fellowship
- Monday 25th: 7.30 pm: Church AGM
- Weds 27th: 10.30am Church Office
 10.30am: Mid- Week Meeting Point
 1.05pm : Lunchtime Concert – Seren Winds
 7.30 pm: Beulah Alive
- Saturday 30th: 10.15am: WRB Prayers, St Andrews Methodist Church, Birchgrove

MAY

- Sunday 1st:** 10.30 am: Dr Alun Jones
 Junior Church
 Coffee served in Canolfan after service
 6.00pm: United Communion Service at Beulah
- Weds 4th 10.30am Church Office
 10.30am Mid- Week Meeting Point
 7.30 pm: Beulah Alive
- Sunday 8th:** 10.30 am : Dr Alun Jones
 Junior Church
 Coffee served in Canolfan after service

Unlocking the Canolfan

If you would like to join a rota of people willing to unlock Canolfan on a Sunday morning at about 9.30am, please can you let Louise know.

Beulah Alive

This will re-start on Wednesday, April 20 at 7.30 in the Whittaker Lounge. All are welcome to attend these sessions of discussion and fellowship.

KIN

Together we care and together we share

Thanks to all who helped with and supported the “Big Fairtrade Breakfast”. This was a most enjoyable event, and raised £237.40 for the Fairtrade Foundation.

KIN at Easter

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported the KIN events over Easter, and to all those who helped with the organisation. Through your hard work and incredible generosity we raised

Good Friday Lunch	£350.00	(Medecins Sans Frontieres)
Easter Breakfast	£210.50	(Refugee Community Kitchen)
Alms Bowl	£616.10	(MSF and RCK)

Big Brekkie

Saturday 14th May from 10 am till 12 noon in the Canolfan

During Christian Aid week this year we will be holding a Big Brekkie in Beulah to raise money, and to continue Christian Aid’s campaigning on climate change.



Over the next few weeks, as part of a North Cardiff initiative, there will be an opportunity to write letters and sign campaign postcards about the need for much tougher action to combat global warming. Craig Williams MP will be coming along to our Brekkie to receive all the letters and postcards and to talk about his recent visit with Christian Aid to Kenya to learn about the effects of climate change on people there. This is obviously an excellent opportunity for us to speak to him about our concerns around these issues, and I hope very much that many people will be interested in coming along.

This year Christian Aid Week is featuring Morsheda, a young mother of four living in Bangladesh on a low-lying island in the Brahmaputra River. Floods are a terrifying part of her everyday life and by hosting a Big Brekkie we will be raising vital funds and awareness that will help enable her, and others like her, to raise their houses on plinths away from the danger of the river, and give her the resources she needs to make a living.

Housekeeping Matters

Recordings of Services:

Sunday morning services continue to be recorded. If you are unable to come to church and would like to borrow a cassette tape to listen to the service, please speak to Louise or your elder.

Duty Elders: in the interests of the safety of our children when crossing the road to Junior Church, it has been agreed that the Elder on duty should join the leaders on the pavement to ensure that children cross safely.

Communion Elders: when non-serving elders are doing communion duty, they are very welcome to join the elders for the vestry prayer.

Looking out for each other: When Peter has gone, it would be good if we could all be aware of who is missing from church; if you notice that someone who sits near you hasn't been around for a time, please can you let Louise or their elder know.

Leaving Party for Peter

**On Saturday
April 16th
At 6pm**

We will be having a *Bring and Share* party to say farewell to Peter.

Everyone is welcome.

Please sign your name in the porch if you would like to attend

Who's Doing What and When

	Mini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader
April				
3rd	am Harley Jones	John Prosser	Jan & Dennis Richards	John Rhys
	pm			
10th	am Ian Budding	Derek Evans	Eleri John & (tba)	Mary Edwards
	pm		United Communion service Bethany	
17th	am Colin Grimes	Lesley Richards	Christine & Duncan Pugh	Bronwen James
24th	am Huw Morgan	Elaine Edwards	Kate Stanbury & Val Roberts	Bev Hampson
	pm		Evening worship in MWL	
May				
1st	am Mike Warsop	Viv Jones	Mair Haywood & Mary Edwards	Chris Phelps
	pm	Viv Jones	United Communion Beulah	Phillip Edwards
8th	am Keith Jones	Ian McDowell	Mary & Mike Warsop	Richard Sweetnam
15th	am Tony Webb	Tony Webb	Pat Agland & Trix Pryce	Elaine Edwards
22nd	am Harley Jones	Barbara Rhys	Ann Grimes & Barbara Collins	Cathy Wales
29th	am Ian Budding	Peter Stephenson	Lynne Davies & Diane Burton	James Hall



Flower Rota

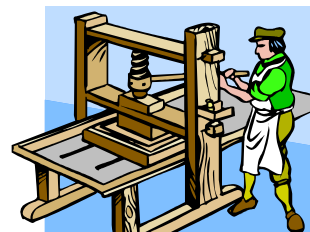
April
 3rd Ann & Colin Grimes
 10th Cathryn Hales
 17th Gaynor Rees
 24th Mary & John Prosser

May
 1st Jill Ferdinando
 8th Viv & Harley Jones
 15th Anne & Frank Rees
 22nd Jenny & Ian McDowell
 29th Cathy & Andy Wales



Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the May edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 17th April, and Colin will be editing.



Colin Grimes,
Huw Morgan

e-mail: crossroads@hotmail.co.uk

Easter Egg competition.....

here are the colourful and stylish eggs drawn by our young people.



Ages 0-4



Ages 5-7

..... and here are the winners, from
Arwyn and Eden.



Arwyn 4

Eden 6