



BEULAH

CROSSROADS

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



The Magic Stick

One of the things many seaside towns had, was a bandstand. Eastbourne had a particularly fine one: With an enclosed area, partially under cover, with comfortable canvas chairs, for those who could afford to buy a ticket. However, you could get a good view, and hear very well, from the public promenade overlooking the bandstand. I used to be taken there on Summer evenings, in my push chair, to look through the railings. I absolutely loved it. Of course, in those days (the late 1920s), there were many regiments in the British army. Each one had a band. In many cases, each battalion had a band. They wore splendid uniforms; and since they were not often required for formal regimental occasions, they spent most of the Summer, touring around seaside towns

At the moment, we are without a “conductor” in Beulah. May I take the analogy a little further. I know now, of course, that it is the bandsmen who make the

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CHURCH NOTES

It has been a busy few weeks in our church life, with much to do and prepare for. A large number of you turned out for the Queen's Birthday Lunch, and I'm told that a good time of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

In half term our children were able to enjoy a happy time at Come and Play and Play in the Park – we are grateful to those who gave of their time to organise these. Many of you are busy preparing for the Rhiwbina Festival as I write – by the time you read this it will all be over for another year, but I am sure it will be a great community day as people from the village come together to share the fun. Beulah will be providing refreshments, and there will be a presentation in the church from the 'Cardiff to Calais' group about their work in providing help in the Calais camps.

At the same time, a group of 11 Beulah people will be making their way to the showground in Builth (with our Yellow Bag) to enjoy the URC Wales Big Day Out. We are looking forward to sharing in worship, discussion and fellowship with URC members from all over Wales.

The theme for the day will be Growing in Faith, with a focus on the Emmaus Road story in Luke 24. Our yellow bag will be going too, and we have filled it with your contributions – thanks to Nigel and Marianne for their help in co-ordinating this. The items, ranging from a hymn by Dr Alun to seeds from the garden, reflect the many and various stages we are at, individually and collectively, in our journeys of faith.

The two disciples who walked with Jesus to Emmaus pondered and questioned all that had just

happened, all the while accompanied by Jesus, whom they did not recognise. With the other URC churches in Cardiff and beyond, we may feel that we are on a journey with an unknown destination which takes us in directions we had not expected. As I type, I look up at my image of Graffiti Jesus which hangs above my desk, and remind myself that, recognised or not, he is with us on this journey, and perhaps the most important thing is not the destination, but how we travel together on what is, or may be, our own Emmaus Road.



Family News

Our church family has experienced much loss this past month, and our hearts and prayers go out to all those who are grieving. Earlier in June we learned of the death of Peter Bragg, Irene's husband, after a short illness in hospital. We send our love and prayers to Irene and Helen, and are grateful to Roger Bidnell for leading a very moving funeral service.

Evelyn Rees, a very longstanding and active Beulah member, also died the same weekend, and Roger again led a service of celebration for her long and active life - until the past few years Evelyn still organised our Christmas Day Lunch. We continue to remember Gaynor and all her family in our prayers.

We then learned of the death of Geoff Griffiths after several years of recurring illness, which he has borne with grace and fortitude. Geoff has served Beulah and the URC over many decades, and will be missed by his many friends here, as well as by his family. He was secretary in my days as a very young elder, and I remember so well the kindness, humour, order and orderliness with which all meetings were conducted. His funeral will be in Beulah on Wednesday July 6 at 1.00pm, and will be conducted by Ken Graham. We remember in our prayers Geoff's daughter, Catherine, son-in-law Phil, and all his family and friends.

We also send our love and sympathies to Laura Davies on the death of her mother, and remember Laura, Terry, Ieuan and Chloe in our prayers.

Many members and friends are also unwell or undergoing treatment at this time. We particularly think of Evan Thomas, Rubina Lewis, Dennis Richards and Mildred Cliff. We remember them, their families, and all others facing any kind of anxiety and worry.

It has also been a month where happy things have happened too, and we were delighted to celebrate the weddings of Bethan Jones and Thomas Stanway, and then that of Jonathan Grimes and Vicki Ware, both of which were conducted by Ken Graham. They were truly joyous occasions, the church beautifully decorated with flowers, and it was a privilege to share with and witness two young couples making their vows before God.

(Continued on page 3)

Church Secretary:
Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Church Treasurer:
Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

CHURCH NOTES - Family News (Continued)

Next month we will celebrate two baptisms in Beulah, and it is so heartening to see that the important events in our lives continue to be marked in these ways.

Sue and John Revill have become grandparents again – their daughter Geraldine who now lives in New Zealand, has given birth to a baby girl called Seren. We send congratulations to Geraldine and to all the family.

A number of people have reached, or are about to reach, a significant birthday (they won't thank me for mentioning which one!) – but birthday greetings must go to Peter Cruchley and Keirsten Eales (who shared a birthday in June) and to Angela Hughes who celebrates her birthday very soon. We hope they all have had a lovely time.

News has just reached us that Eleri Cruchley Jones has achieved her degree in Sociology at Bristol University, so we send her our warmest congratulations and good wishes for the future. Good luck to all receiving exam results over the next few weeks.

We are holding a party for Stephen Best on July 15 to celebrate his time with us as he moves on to ordination. We now know that this will take place in City URC on September 10th, and

he will be inducted at Tongwynlais on September 25th.

We send congratulations to one of our elders, Anne James, on the launch of her book, 'Remarkable Rhiwbinans' which took place on June 25th. Anne has spent many months researching and writing this book, and we are sure that it will be very successful – you will be able to buy copies at the Festival.

Last month, Revd. Dewi Lewis wrote about the launch of his book, 'Christian Aid Cymru: Beginnings. This is being launched at Beulah on July 22nd from 2.30-4.30pm, and a member at Beulah will be presented with a copy. Our thanks to Dewi for his thoughtfulness to Beulah.

Once again, I must thank you all for the support and help that people are giving me during this time – especially Barbara, who had so much to deal with whilst I was away.

Finally, as we move forward into a quieter time of year, may I wish everyone a restful summer break – even if you are not going away, fewer activities and meetings will help us all to return refreshed in September.

Blessings and love,

Louise

A NEW RHIWBINA CIVIC SOCIETY PUBLICATION REMARKABLE RHIWBINANS - 18 LIVES by ANNE JAMES

This book looks at the lives of 18 people who lived in Rhiwbina. It gives insight into the development of the suburb and how it has attracted many talented and eminent people. The culmination of 3 years of research it brings the history of Rhiwbina to life. It includes the lives of Wynford Davies, W J Gruffydd, Sgt Tom Lewis, Angharad Rees and Rachel Thomas.

Anne James would like to thank the many people in Beulah who shared their memories with her and encouraged her along the way. Beulah features in a number of these lives showing how much it is part of the history of Rhiwbina.

The book is for sale at the Rhiwbina Civic Society stall at the Summer Festival and after that at Victoria Fearn Gallery or from Anne James.

The Magic Stick (cont)

music. I also know, that in the music world, there are some "conductors" who do no more than beat time to whatever the band decide to play. However, a real conductor is an expert musician himself (herself), and actually "plays" the band or orchestra like a sensitive instrument: controlling tempo, texture, mood, volume; and conveying to the individual musicians, his (her) own feeling and desires. To do this, he has to be accepted by the musicians, and gain their loyalty, trust and willing cooperation and support. They have to choose him (her) and he (she) them. This is simply not possible if a different conductor (Minister?) arrives every week. It has to be a stable and permanent relationship.

Of course each musician needs to practice and develop his own "style". He may enjoy a bit of ensemble work. He may even perform an occasional concerto. The conductor too may undertake some teaching or make some guest appearances: But the special, consistent, caring, guiding, encouraging (yes, and warning) relationship of Minister and congregation (that's what I'm waffling about) is absolutely essential. We may go on for quite a while, making it up as we go. We have many gifted "musicians"; but I am utterly convinced that we need the right person as OUR Minister. I beg you all not to lose sight of this vital objective.

God bless you all; and thank you for putting up with me.

Tony Vinall



The Canolfan Garden – Past Present and Future

The Canolfan garden was formally opened as the James Horsburgh Memorial Garden in 1976. For many years Peter Ferdinando did a sterling job of looking after the garden. He developed the garden during the period that the Canolfan was redesigned to celebrate Beulah's 150th anniversary and the millennium in 1999/2000. In 2013 Peter hung up his Canolfan gardening boots and at that point, Elaine Edwards, Dennis Richards and Ann Brown took on the job of looking after what was by then a mature and vigorous garden. Dennis has had to cut back his own role recently – his work in the garden has been greatly appreciated.



Peter Cruchley-Jones encouraged us with the 2015 theme of “Living Stones, Growing Gardens, Shaped by Christ”. This also linked in well with the successful Eco-congregation initiative that has been led by Neil and Liz Kidd, Eileen Newington and many others. Our compost bins are well used and we are able to turn a combination of soft green garden waste and vegetable peelings from the kitchen into good compost which has been used around the garden to improve the soil.

More recently Ian McDowell has become involved and encouraged us to grow some edibles as “Mr Potato Head”. The Junior Church, with Pat Cazenave and her team, had the children planting runner beans, courgettes, lettuces and other vegetables. The children had a great deal of pleasure from this and particularly enjoyed selling their produce for charity.

In 2015, Ann and Ian attended a ten week gardening course on “permaculture” techniques. This gave us a link with Michelle Fitzimmons from “Edible Landscapes”. She came to work with us to help develop further the garden as a community garden. A laminated plan can be seen on the notices on the first floor of Canolfan.

We have added some new plants and now have a thriving herb garden. Neil (Kidd) does a great job of keeping the grass cut and topping up our three compost bins. We are now gradually filling in the gaps in the planting. Elaine has been working hard at filling planters and hanging baskets to fill the garden with colour. The “Men’s Sheds” Group which meets on Thursday afternoons is renovating the garden seats and wooden planters.

Many people who have come across the garden have not realised it is there, tucked away in the heart of Rhiwbina. We are mindful that this is a memorial garden for many people. Our aim is to create a garden of peaceful sanctuary and community. It is there to be enjoyed by all ages.

Extra helpers are always welcome.

*Ann Brown
Elaine Edwards
Ian McDowell*

CHRISTIAN AID HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION 15 - 21 MAY 2016

Dear Collectors, Contributors and Supporters,

Once again my grateful thanks to you all for your invaluable help and support again this year. With so many churches not participating in the House-to-House collections, and with Christian Aid's invitation to contribute via text and other methods of donation, we were concerned that the amount raised via the house-to-house collection might be reduced. In addition, the fact that this year we were directed not to call on homes which displayed the 'No Cold Callers' stickers, did reduce the final total. The Beulah collection was approximately £700 less this year.

The end result however was not too disappointing, a comparison of 2015 and 2016 is given below:

	2015	2016
Money raised	£2,645.00	£1,927.10
Money Gift-Aided	£1,172.03	£962.80
Total from Gift Aid	£293.00	£240.70
FINAL TOTAL	£2,938.03	£2,167.80

Once again I would like to thank you all for your time and generosity.

Lynne

ALL AGE JUNIOR CHURCH

SUNDAY 17th JULY

Our end of year event this time is going to be something a little different.

It's called ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

It's for all our children and young people from creche and Junior Church and will consist of various stalls set out downstairs in Canolfan.

There will be lots of fun to be had trying your hand at different skills such as 'Hook The Duck', 'Hoopla', and 'Tin Can Alley' and there will be small prizes to be won as well. So make sure you are there to join in all the fun.

On this occasion the children will be in Canolfan all morning and not in the baptism service or going back over for communion afterwards.

Best wishes,

Gill

All-Age Junior Church, Sunday 19th June

Last month, we had a look at the word and idea of 'Beulah' in junior church. Beulah is a Hebrew word found in Isaiah 62: '.... you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married.' Isaiah is describing a New Jerusalem, encouraging the Israelites to engage in a bit of positive thinking at a time when they had returned from exile and were discouraged and fearful about the future. 'Beulah' is being used to describe marriage and reconciliation with God: the Israelites, their land and God were back in a right relationship with each other.



So ... we rolled up our sleeves and transformed tables, chairs and sheets into a land that we might want to live in. There was a (proper high) mountain, boulders, mountain pools and streams, green pastures, a river, sheep, people, trees, fish, birds boats ... even a turtle and an octopus! Not bad for half an hour's work, though we do so ourselves.



Oh, and did you see our sheep? There's a rather lovely mountain sheep, which comes from mid-Wales, called the Beulah Speckled Face. We made a big collage picture of one, from cotton wool and tissue paper, and put it at the foot of the stairs in the Canolfan. We hope ewe liked it!

Andy Wales



Church Calendar

JULY

Sunday 3rd	10.30am	Mr Richard & Mrs Sarah Edwards
		Junior Church: Coffee served in Canolfan after service
	6.00pm	United Communion Service at Bethany Baptist
	7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Weds 6th	10.30am	Church Office & Mid-Week Meeting Point
	7.30pm	Beulah Alive
Friday 8th	3.15pm	Youth Drop-In
	7.30pm	Concert by the Lovell-Jones family
Sat 9th	10.00-12.00	KIN Cake Stall
	1.00pm	Lunch time concert – Alison Henson Jones
Sunday 10th	10.30am	Mr Stephen Best: Family Service to incl the Baptism of Olivia Grace Brown
		Coffee served in Canolfan after service
	6.00pm	Film Night – Mrs Betty Evans
	7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon 11th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Weds 13th	10.30am	Church Office & Mid-Week Meeting Point
	7.30pm	Beulah Alive
Fri 15th	6.00pm	Celebratory BBQ for Stephen Best
Sunday 17th	10.30am	Dr. Alun Jones: Baptism of Griff Hampson
		Junior Church End of Term Party : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
	7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Weds 20th	10.30am	Church Office & Mid-Week Meeting Point
	7.30pm	Beulah Alive
Sunday 24th	10.30am	Worship Team: Mrs Vera Ruddock
		All Age Junior Church: Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Weds 27th	10.30am	Church Office & Mid-Week Meeting Point
	7.30pm	Beulah Alive
Sat 30th		Ladies' Coach Trip to Ludlow
	10.15am	WRB Prayers at Whitchurch Methodist Church
Sunday 31st	10.30am	Mr Richard & Mrs Sarah Edwards
		All Age Junior Church in Canolfan : Coffee served in Canolfan after service



AUGUST

Weds 3rd	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Sunday 7th	10.30am	Mr Stephen Best
		All Age Junior Church in Canolfan : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Weds 10th	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Sat 13th	10.00am	KIN Cake Stall
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Worship Team: Mrs Louise Morgan
		All Age Junior Church in Canolfan : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Weds 17th	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Sunday 21st	10.30am	Mr Stephen Best: Communion Service
		All Age Junior Church in Canolfan : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Weds 24th	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Sat 27th	10.15am	WRB Prayers at Ararat Baptist Church
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Mr Richard & Mrs Sarah Edwards
Paradise Run Collection		All Age Junior Church in Canolfan : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Weds 31st	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 1st - Mon 5th		Beulah Caldey Retreat
Sunday 4th	10.30am	Rev. Roy Jenkins
		Junior Church : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
	6.00pm	United Communion Service at Beulah
Weds 7th	10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
	7.30pm	Beulah Alive
Sat 10th	10.30am	KIN Cake Stall
Sunday 11th	10.30am	Dr Alun Jones
		Junior Church : Coffee served in Canolfan after service
	7.15am	Youth Fellowship
Mon 12th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting

NEW BABY

Sue and John Revill are very pleased to announce the safe arrival, on Friday 24th June, of Baby Seren, their latest grandchild, to their daughter, Geraldine, and son-in-law Garry, who live in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand.



Plans for Transitional Ministry

Plans are being made to support churches in Cardiff through this period of ministerial vacancy, and we will hear more about this soon.

Church Meeting is the vehicle in the local church for receiving information, discussion and decision making. There is much for us to think about just now, so please make an effort to come to these, as far as you are able, so that all can feel involved in the process we need to go through.

We are aware that the traditional model of Monday evening is not possible for everyone, so we will be thinking about how else we can reach people.

Please let me know your views so we can include as many as possible. We are all part of the Beulah family, whether or not we have formal membership, and all are welcome at meetings and invited to contribute to discussions.

Thank you,
Louise.

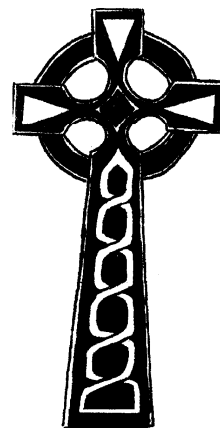
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We are fortunate in Beulah that we have a number of 'ministerial friends' who are willing to give their support to us for these services. We are used to having our own minister to call upon whenever the need has arisen, but we now need to think more carefully about how we approach these services.

After discussion with some of these friends, it is suggested that in future, requests for baptisms, funerals and weddings, that are to be held in Beulah, should be made through the church secretary, who will liaise with the celebrants to establish their availability.

In our tradition, as with Communion, elders and lay preachers may be authorised and trained to conduct baptisms, and we have several members who are authorised for this. Celebrants for weddings and funerals do not require authorisation from Synod, and the denomination is encouraging members from local churches to offer themselves for training.

It is inevitable that Beulah will need to begin to draw on our own lay resources in the near future to cover more of these services. We therefore need to identify people willing to contribute and develop skills in one, some or all of these areas. Our ministerial friends are offering to help us with this. If you feel this is something you might like to know more about and maybe explore informally, would you have a word with the church secretary.



BEULAH FUN DAYS FOR CHILDREN AGED 7-11 YEARS:

These will take place on Wednesday, 17th August, and Wednesday 24th August, 2016 from 10.00am to 3.00pm in Canolfan.

There will be a range of activities, including art, sport, cooking, junk modelling and films.

More information and registration forms are available from Barbara Rhys, no later than Friday, July 15.

Who's Doing What and When

		<i>Driver on Rota</i>	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Stewards</i>	<i>Pulpit Reader</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
July						
3rd	am	Tony Webb	Lynne Davies	Glenys Scott & Elinor Ludlow	Lorraine Larcombe	Anne James
	pm	United Communion Service in Bethany				
10th	am	Harley Jones	Ann Brown	Jenny McDowell & Chris Phelps	Liz McCarthy	Kaye Mundy
	pm		Ann Brown			
17th	am	Ian Budding	Ruth Williams	Kaye Mundy & Elaine Edwards	Andrew Glanfield	Christine Pugh
24th	am	Mike Warsop	Gaynor Rees	Denise Dickman & Pam Penny	Eleanor Mills	Pat & Cyril Cazenave
31st	am	Huw Morgan	Audrey Budding	Duncan Pugh & Christine Pugh	Eleri John	Elaine Edwards
August						
7th	am	Colin Grimes	Lesley Richards	Dennis Richards & Janet Richards	Vera Ruddock	Natalie & Rod Samuel
14th	am	Keith Jones	Trix Pryce	Rubina Lewis & Kate Stanbury	Lynne Davies	Eleanor Mills
21st	am	Tony Webb	Richard Edwards	Peter & Jill Ferdinando	Fleur Richards	Naomi & Martin Williams
28th	am	Harley Jones	Anne James	Val Roberts & Mair Haywood	Louise Morgan	Heather Bishop
September						
4th	am	Ian Budding	Derek Evans	Mary Edwards & Pat Agland	Mary Prosser	Huw & Louise Morgan
	pm		Derek Evans	United Communion Service in Beulah	Richard Edwards	
11th	am	Mike Warsop	Viv Jones	Mike & Mary Warsop	Hollie Glanfield	Mary & Mike Warsop
18th	am	Huw Morgan	Colin Grimes	Trix Pryce & Barbara Collins	Jenny McDowell	Diane Burton
25th	am	Colin Grimes	Phillip Edwards	Ann Grimes & Lynne Davies	Derek Evans	Heather Bishop



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

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **September 2016** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 21st August** and **Huw** will be editing.