

BEULAH CROSSROADS BEULAH CROSS

CHURCH NOTES

s usual, there is much to be busy with over the coming weeks of Advent as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. Please join in with what you can information about services. carol singing, the Christmas Festival, Christmas Day Lunch, and much more will be found on other pages in this edition. The Christmas story will be re-told in many ways, and it connects us not only with each other, but with the other churches in Rhiwbina, across Cardiff and beyond.

We are nearing the end of my first year as secretary – and as I look back I find it hard to believe how much has happened this year. As I wish you all the blessings of Christmas, I also want to thank each and every one of you for the love, support, and encouragement which you show me week by week. It is a privilege to work, worship and witness with you.

We are delighted that we have been able to find six people willing to replace the retiring Elders, and I am pleased to welcome back onto the Eldership the following people: Liz Kidd, Elaine Edwards, Gill Grivas, Fleur Richards, Pat Cazenave and Colin Grimes. The service of induction will take place

on January 15, conducted by Stephen Best, and will be followed by a Church Family lunch. At this service we will also be welcoming James Hall into membership. I would also like to thank our retiring elders, who are about to have a well-earned rest from their duties: these are: Peter Stevenson, Audrey Budding, Alun Jones, Nesta Thomas, Tony Webb and Ann Brown. It has been wonderful to work with these and all the elders and officers this year. The amount of work quietly going on behind the scenes is astonishing, and I am constantly touched by the offers of help from all around the congregation.

FAMILY NEWS

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Joyce Llewellyn this month. Joyce was a faithful member of Beulah, with her husband, Ken, for many years, and will be remembered with fondness by many. She was a gentle, but determined lady, who was dedicated to the causes of peace and justice in our world. We are pleased that the family wish to bring her back to Cardiff from Cheshire for her funeral, and Ken Graham will lead a service in Beulah to celebrate Joyce's life on December 9th at 11.45am. Many members and friends have been unwell at home or in hospital and we send our

good wishes and prayers to Dorothy Jones, Irene Bragg, Rubina Lewis, Marg Jones, Frank Kinsey, Rhian Jones, Anne Williams and Nesta Thomas. We also think of others who are dealing with difficult situations, and hold them all in prayer. We send our sympathies to Elin James and her family

Elin James and her family on the death of her father, and to Pat Cazenave whose aunt died recently.

As a congregation we were

also saddened to hear of the death of the Reverend John Humphreys, former Moderator of the URC Synod of Wales, and also of Scotland until his recent retirement. John was greatly loved and respected within the URC, and our sympathies and prayers are with his partner and mother. We were delighted to hear that Brenda Cheer, who works as a Specialist Nurse for ERIC, the Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity. was presented with an award from the Nursing Times for the charity's early intervention work with children with continence problems.

I wish everyone in Beulah a peaceful, joyous and blessed Christmas, and look forward to all that we will do together in God's service next year.

> Love and blessings, Louise.

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Church Treasurer:

Mrs Barbara Rhys, Tel: 029 2062 4574

Visit us at...... http://www.beulahurc.org.uk/

So, my three years at Beulah has finally come to an end and a week of 'goodbyes' has rounded it off nicely. Many, many thanks to you all for taking the time and trouble to say and do such lovely things. The meals, parties and gifts were unexpected and wonderful; the invitations to keep in touch, and pop in occasionally to see how everyone is doing, warmed my heart.

From my first day, I realised that Beulah is a special place as everyone made me feel so welcome and at home. It has been a pleasure to get to know you all and your support has been incredible. Many of the activities undertaken with the children could not have happened without the invaluable assistance of so many volunteers and JC leaders who freely gave of their time and talents to ensure things worked well and that the children could have new experiences. Some of you helped at practically everything, others on special occasions, but whatever your contribution it was greatly appreciated.

To the children and young people I wish to say 'Thank You'

for joining in wholeheartedly with the various activities, for your boundless energies and enthusiasm, and your creative minds. I have learned so much from you all and, hopefully, you have learned a little from me too. Now it's time for me to work with children in a different Church which will bring new challenges and opportunities but you will always have a special place in my heart and the wonderful memories you have given me will remain.

God Bless you all

Gill Edwards

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

"Love and very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all the Beulah Family.

You are often in my thoughts and prayers – God Bless you all, Heather C."

.... from p.1

modern, such as Christmas trees, introduced around 1830 (although the practice of using Winter greenery and berries to decorate houses undoubtedly goes back far further). Other traditions seem to have had their day with Christmas cards, also first introduced in 1843, being slowly replaced by the less jolly, but more environmentally friendly, 'e-card' amongst younger people or those with friends and family around the globe. I personally hope the quite recent tradition of a Christmas Day Dr Who Special lasts for a few more years though!

And so it has always been, with gentle folk keeping the best of the old, ensuring that their past is not truly forgotten, that their roots go deep and their stories of bygone ages whisper down through the years, sometimes with their true meanings almost completely forgotten. But we are

a curious and imaginative lot, humankind, and will continue to find new ways of being and celebrating with each other at Christmas, and other important points in our Christian calendar, as times change, and so do we.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May your candles burn slowly and hats stay on longest!

Andrew Glanfield



A CHRISTMAS 'OUR FATHER' (REDUX)

Our Father, which art in Amazon,

hallowed be thy games; thy new releases come; thy streaming be done,

in hi-def as it is in stereo.

Give us this day our daily tweets.

And forgive us for not spending enough,

as we forgive those who spend too little on us.

And lead us not into the food bank;

but deliver us from charitable giving.

For thine is the iPad,

the widescreen and the Playstation,

for ever and ever.

Amen

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Concerts at the Crossroads

Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals

January 25th 2017 at 1.05pm

Opera Students from the RWCMD

Rachel Goode – soprano
Lesley Dolman – mezzo-soprano
Rhodri Jones - tenor
Andrii Ganchuk – baritone
with
Conal Bembridge – piano

This new year recital has become a popular fixture in the lunchtime concert series as we hear the young opera singers of the future performing their audition arias as well as lighter items from their repertoire.

Something to look forward to as winter digs in!

Tickets £5 on the door as usual

More dates for your diary

22nd February Rhys Watkins – violin

Rhys was the leader of the Nidum Ensemble as well as playing for the LSO

29th March Emyr Jones – baritone

Winner of the Ian Stoutsker prize in 2016

All are welcome!



Croeso i Bawb!

CÔR MEIBION TAF MALE VOICE CHOIR

There will be a concert in the Church, presented by the Cor Meibion Taf Male Voice Choir, on the evening of Friday 20th January 2017. The evening is being organised by the Cardiff East Rotary Club, and tickets will be available shortly from Mike Warsop at a cost of £15.00 for the concert and a Cheese and Wine Supper afterwards, or alternatively £9.00 for the concert only.

The event is being arranged by the Cardiff East Rotary Club, and all of the proceeds will be going directly to Rotary supported Charities.

Côr Meibion Taf was formed in 2004 when around twenty men gathered in Tabernacle Chapel, The Hayes, Cardiff, with the intention of establishing a Welsh medium Male Choir in the capital city. Since its inception, the choir has grown to include over seventy members, with many of the original crew remaining within its ranks.

They have won first prize at the National Eisteddfod on two occasions, and have performed many times on radio and television in Wales and abroad. The Choir appeared on Spanish television whilst on tour there in 2011. Côr Meibion Taf are regularly invited to perform in concert for various charitable causes, and have sung many times at the Millennium Stadium as the invited choir before international rugby matches. They have appeared on stage at the Royal Albert Hall, London as part of the biannual London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs.

KIN

Together we care and together we share

GLORIA

A very big thankyou to everyone who supported the concert on 5th November in aid of Homestart, at which £525 was raised (with £247 gift aided).

Special thanks go to John and Brenda Cheer plus the soloists, instrumentalists and firework team for giving us such an uplifting and happy evening. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by choir and audience alike, and we are very grateful for all the work and preparation that went into making it such a success.

KIN at Christmas

Church Family Christmas Card

This year we will be supporting the Christian Aid **Light the Way** campaign (see separate item p.7).

We are very grateful to Chris Phelps for making the church family card for us again. Please leave a Christmas greeting for your friends in Beulah and, at the same time, make a donation to Christian Aid (gift aid envelopes will be available beside the card).

There is also the opportunity for you to add your own piece of colour to the Light the Way image which will be on the card.

KIN Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday17th December 10.30am till 12 noon in the Canolfan

A family occasion to share coffee and mince pies, sing a few Christmas songs and hear some festive music played by Beulah's musicians of all ages. There will be a Christmas raffle, and perhaps even a visit from someone special!

Please do come and join us.

Money raised will go to CLIC Sargent

Carol Singing 20th - 24th December around Rhiwbina in aid of Save the Children

This year we are pleased to join with Bethany and All Saints for our Carol Singing.

Details of routes and refreshments nearer the time.

Thankyou to you all for your continued interest and support throughout this busy time, Eileen

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY GROUP UPDATE

The group met three times during November to discover for ourselves what Transitional Ministry means, and what it means for Beulah.

The key thing we have learned is that this process will involve

the whole church family, as we celebrate the past, affirm the present, and imagine the future. Look out for more information in the New Year as to how you can be involved.

Church Calendar

DECEMBER

Thursday 8th:

Saturday 3rd: 4.00pm-6.30pm: Rhiwbina Christmas Festival **Sunday 4th: 10.30am: Worship Team - Cradle Roll Service**

Junior Church

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.15pm: Towards the End of the Day

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Monday 5th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Wednesday 7th: 10.30am: Mid- Week Meeting Point

10.30 am: Church Office

7.30 pm: Beulah Players: The Good Old Days 7.30 pm: Beulah Players: The Good Old Days

Friday 9th: 3.15pm: Youth Drop-In

7.30 pm: Beulah Players: The Good Old Days

Sunday 11th: 10.30am: Dr. Alun Jones, with Communion

Junior Church

Coffee served in Canolfan after service 6.00pm: Light for our Loss – Revd. Roger Bidnell

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Monday 12th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds 14th: 10.30am: Mid- Week Meeting Point

10.30 am: Church Office

1.05pm: Christmas Concert with 'Sine Nomine'

Friday 16th: 7.30pm: TENOVUS Choir Concert

Saturday 17th: 10.30am: KIN Christmas Coffee Morning with Music

Sunday, 18th: 10.30 am: Service led by members of the Senior Department

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.00pm: Carol Service

Tuesday 20th: 7.00pm: Carol Singing – from Beulah Wednesday 21st 7.00pm: Carol Singing – from All Saints Thursday 22nd: 7.00pm: Carol Singing – from Beulah 7.00pm: Carol Singing – from Bethany

Saturday 24^{th:} 10.00am: Carol Singing –outside Margaret Whittaker Lounge

5.00pm: Blessing the Crib Service

11.30pm: Midnight Communion – Revd. Roger Bidnell

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Sunday 25th: 10.45am: Mr. Richard Edwards & Mrs Sarah Edwards

Christmas Day Lunch

Saturday 31st: 10.15: WRB Prayers – Rhiwbina Baptist Church

January's Calendar can be found on p.8

Words of encouragement, hope and challenge from Mari in the Christian Aid Office, Cardiff

Hello all! / Haia pawb

I wanted to send round an email to you to feed back about the success of Christian Aid Week back in May, so please take a quick couple of mins to be encouraged! Much has happened in the world over the past weeks and months hurricane Matthew hitting Haiti, the ongoing troubles in Iraq which might have caused us to feel helpless. But the work being done by the churches through Christian Aid is a work of real hope. And as we approach Christmas, we have an opportunity to bring light to situations of great fear and darkness as we respond to the needs of so many refugees and displaced people worldwide.

Christian Aid South East Wales: Advent & Christmas 2016
Bulletin

Good news – Christian Aid Week results and humanitarian response

It is good to report that about £10 million was raised UK-wide during Christian Aid Week. £466,000 (about 5%) of that came from our communities in Wales, with £63,882 from Cardiff alone (that's 1/7 of the Wales total). This is all due to the outreach by Wales' churches into our villages, towns, and cities, into schools, businesses and places of work, through the House-to-House collections, Big Brekkie's, Scalextric marathons, mountain walks, curry nights... the list goes on. Let's give thanks to the Lord for these encouraging gifts, pray blessings

KIN

those who gave, and pray it will be used well to help many lives out of poverty to the glory of God.

We recently received news about Morsheda Begum in Bangladesh whose story we know from the Christian Aid Week film and posters. Due to another sudden flood at the end of the summer, Morsheda was again forced to leave her home. She received emergency relief from Christian Aid and was given temporary accommodation. But it is good to share the news that our partner GUK has now raised the level of her home by constructing a plinth. She is in a much safer place. She has also received a hygienic latrine and a hand pump to access clean water. And this month, she will be receiving cattle and a solar panel!

Churches have also been generous over the past few months responding to great humanitarian need:

- In <u>Iraq</u> our partners are working with those who have fled Mosul recently, providing humanitarian aid, and our local partners in the region are responding in several locations where people are seeking refuge.
- In Greece, Serbia, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq we are providing support and shelter to some of the most vulnerable refugees, including women who have experienced gender-based violence, and those with disabilities. We are providing essentials such as beds, mattresses and hygiene kits and legal protection services to unaccompanied children.
- In Haiti following Hurricane

Matthew we are providing shelter, clean drinking water, hygiene kits, tents and tarpaulins, vouchers to buy food and supplies and materials to help re-build and fix roofs to help get communities back on their feet as soon as possible.

'Light the Way' and 'Escape to Egypt' sponsored walk for refugees

As the darkness of the winter months' sets in and we prepare to celebrate the light who came into the world by filling our homes with light and laughter, family and friends, we ask that churches turn their attention and prayers towards the more than 65 million people who are fleeing from violence and conflict and for whom a joyful home is a distant memory. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear, people just like you and me are searching for safety and refuge. And so, this Advent and Christmas, please join us to "Light the Way" for refugees and people fleeing violence.

To raise money towards the Christmas Appeal, Christian Aid Wales staff and supporters will be embarking on a 140-mile sponsored walk from Bethlehem (Carmarthenshire) to Aifft (Egypt, Denbighshire) in solidarity with refugees across the worldwide. A warm welcome to anyone wishing to join for the whole thing or just one of the stages.

Please see the poster in Canolfan with the itinerary and details of how to get involved

details of how to get involved. An outline is given below.

We are asking for your help as churches and individuals to:
* Join us to walk all or part of the way-cardiff@christian-aid.
org 029 2084 4646 * Pray with us-resources are online www. christianaid.org.uk/christmas
* Help raise sponsorship - please get in touch for sponsorship forms

Timetable of the journey

Sunday, Dec 4th

Mon, Dec 5th Tues, Dec 6th Weds, Dec 7th Thurs, Dec 8th

Fri, Dec 9th

Bethlehem, Carmarthenshire - Edwinsford (via Talley) 10 miles

Rhydedwin – Lampeter 12 miles Lampeter— Blaenpennal 12.5 miles Blaenpennal – Aberystwyth 14 miles

Aberystwyth - Ynyslas (& by boat to Aberdyfi) 8 miles

Aberdyfi - Centre for Alternative Technology

14.5 miles

...Cont p.8

Church Calendar ... continued

JANUARY

Sunday 1st 10.30am: New Year's Day Family Worship - Mr. Richard Edwards -

Followed by New Year's Day Brunch

Weds 4th: 10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Church Office

Sunday 8th: 10.30am: Revd. Sally Thomas

Junior Church

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Monday 9th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds 11th: 10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Church Office

Sat. 14th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sunday 15th: 10.00am: Revd. Stephen Best: Induction of New Elders, welcoming

new member. Communion

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

7.15: Youth Fellowship

Monday 16th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds 18th: 10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point Church Office

7.30pm: United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, All Saints

Friday 20th 7.30pm. Concert by Côr Meibion Taf

Sunday 22nd: 10.30am: Revd. Gethin Rhys

Junior Church

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.00pm: United Service for Week of Prayer at Bethany

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Monday 23rd: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds 25th: 10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Church Office

Concert at the Crossroads Opera students from WCMD

7.30pm: United Service for Week of Prayer at Beulah

Saturday 28th: 10.30pm: WRB Prayers at Bethany Baptist Church Sunday 29th: 10.30am: Revd. Malcolm Shapland

Paradise Run **Junior Church**

Collection Coffee served in Canolfan after service

... from p.7

Centre for Alternative Technology – Brithdir 9.5 miles Sat, Dec 10th

Sun, Dec 11th Brithdir - Llanuwchllyn 11 miles Mon, Dec 12th Llanuwchllyn - Bala 6 miles

Bala - Betws Gwerfil Goch 10.5 miles Tues, Dec 13th

Betws Gwerfil Goch - Bwlch Pen Barras 14 miles Weds, Dec 14th

Thurs, Dec 15th **Bwlch Penbarras**— Egypt 15.5 miles

7pm a special service at St Asaph Cathedral - all welcome

To our friends at Beulah

May I make a request for surplus garden tools, please? Forks, spades, shears, saws, rakes and leaf rakes. Would those of you who still garden have a rummage in your sheds or garages and turf out anything you can spare, or won't use again? We do need some additional equipment in the Beulah garden, please. In the event of there being a surplus, we will be happy to pass it on to the charity "Tools for Self-reliance".

The garden is looking bleak at this time of year, but I am aiming to bring in more winter-flowering plants in the future. They do take time to establish. The Mahonia, near the garage side door, is beautiful with its long racemes of fragrant yellow flowers, which are a late food source for insects.

Elaine and I have planted fragrant hyacinth bulbs in the planters for a spring display, along with fifty tulip bulbs, and bedding plants in the form of miniature daisies. Pat and her children have also planted a tub of daffodils. Thanks to "Men's Sheds" for refurbishing our benches and planters – they look like new!

Our rhubarb plant made very good growth this year, but we held back from overpicking to allow the crown to develop. It is a variety called "Timperley Early". Next year you rhubarb lovers will be able to pick more regularly.

The herb garden has done well, thanks to lan's expertise. I hope some of you will have used some of the many varieties growing there.

No doubt the nasturtiums which have scrambled all over the garden will self-seed, and give us another glorious display next year, with the purple viburnum bonariensis.

Thanks to Neil for keeping the grass clipped- It's the finish that does it.

Thanks to you all for your support and encouragement. Ian McDowell, Ann Brown, Elaine Edwards.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers and lovely flowers received when my Dad passed away recently. Dad had spent three prolonged periods in hospital this year and had found this difficult having spent all his life on the farm. He loved nature and knew the names of all the plants and animals that lived in the various habitats. Towards the end he was unable to speak, but his final words "lesu, lesu 'rwyt ti'n ddigon" expressed the great comfort his faith gave him.

Diolch yn fawr, Elin a'r teulu Thank you to all who chose to wear a white poppy this year. It is not in any way competing with the red poppy and can actually complement it. By wearing it you are remembering all those killed in wars on both sides anywhere in the world, also nurses and civilians too. In modern warfare, of those who are killed, almost 90% of them are civilians. If you would like to know more please see:ppu.org. uk/whitepoppies. I will be able to buy poppies for next year and donate £17 to the charity.

Chris Phelps

SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENTS

iscussions taking place regarding possible improvements the comfort our current pews, within the sanctuary area. Peter Stevenson has been giving this a lot of thought, and has been carrying out some improvements to the pews, given the restraints of the current construction and spacing of the pews. He has been making some modifications to the position of some of the hymn book shelves, which was restricting the knee room available, and providing samples of new holders for the communion glasses. addition, thought is being given providing sample panels of possible rear seat padding to improve comfort levels. You may usually sit in one of the pews that has been altered, and wondered what is quietly happening to our seating arrangements, so hopefully this will explain the changes. Peter has now reached the stage of discussing the various proposals with the Elders, following which members will be asked to give their preferences, via some hand-out sheets at a few Sunday services. Hopefully we will then reach a consensus of opinion, and be able to provide some costings consideration. for We are very grateful to Peter for his inspiration, and look forward to being able to improve our comfort levels.

Mike (Chairman Premises Committee)

Who's Doing What and When

	N	Mini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader
December					
4th	am	Harley Jones	lan Mcdowell	Christine & Duncan Pugh	Audrey Budding
	pm			"Towards the end of the day"	
11th	am	lan Budding	Ann Brown	Elaine Edwards & Kate Stanbury	Louise Morgan
	pm		Ann Brown	"Light for our loss"	
18th	am	Mike Warsop	Audrey Budding	Mary Prosser & Mary Edwards	Vera Ruddock
	pm		Audrey Budding		
24th 11.30 pm			Ian McDowell Christmas E	Jill & Peter Ferdinando Eve Communion	
25th	am		Phillip Edwards	Janet & Dennis Richards	Anne Thomas
January					
1st	am	Keith Jones	Anne James	Trix Pryce & Val Roberts	Betty Evans
8th	am	Tony Webb	Lesley Richards	Eleri John & Mair Haywood	Colin Grimes
15th	am	Colin Grimes	Nigel Barwise	Pat Agland & Colin Grimes	Mary Edwards
22nd	am	Phillip Edwards	Derek Evans	Mary & Mike Warsop	Bev Hampson
29th	am	Ian Budding	Anne Wilkes	Ann Grimes & Barbara Collins	Richard Sweetnam



December

4th Barbara Clargo 11th Ann Brown 18th Tanya & Nick Hampson 25th Mary & Lesley Richards

For **January's** rota, please check the noticeboard.



Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the February edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 22nd January 2017, and Colin will be editing.

Colin Grimes, Huw Morgan, e-mail: crossroads@hotmail.co.uk