

.....from p.1

relief by the refugee crisis and discussions over Brexit.

The Bible constantly examines ideas about the desire and the need to belong and to have an identity linked to a group and its rules. There is much also about how to behave towards outsiders. The New Testament has plenty to say around the idea that in Christ there is no 'other' ... which has not stopped the Christian church 'othering' a great many people and peoples over the years, sometimes with terrible consequences.

Wales is a small and proud nation, and this is a church with deep community roots. As far as identity goes, I think Beulah looks to itself and to its history at least as much as it looks to the family of the URC. All that might make incomers (like myself), to Wales and to this church, a little anxious. Happily, there is an alchemy here, where 'belonging' and 'welcoming' happen generously, creating something special in Beulah. We can make it look easy. But it's not inevitable, and I think it's something to notice and to treasure.

Andy Wales

CHURCH NOTES

From the waving of palms and processing in and outside the church, through quiet reflection in the evenings, to the moving celebration of Communion in the Upper Room and the silence of the garden in the fading light on Maundy Thursday, to the telling in drama of those who witnessed the momentous events of Good Friday, and on to meeting again in the garden on Easter morning to the song of the blackbird, that earliest of birds, we contemplated again the events that led to the foundation of our faith. Having experienced a range of emotions through Holy Week, we approached our Easter Morning Family Communion Service with expectation of a happy time of celebration. We were not disappointed and Geraint Richards and Alun Jones led us in an affirming and uplifting service of hope and joy. Our voices were raised in singing Beulah's 'traditional' Easter Hymn, 'Christ is Risen, Halleluia!', and then we went out to meet the surprise which Jo Jones and the children had been preparing – the walls of Canolfan covered in flocks of coloured birds, soaring upwards as a symbol of the joy of that Resurrection morning. Those birds, in their unconfined flight, seemed to be saying to us 'choose life'.

We had just sung, 'In the halls of death defiant, life is dancing with delight', and as those words continue to echo, we are challenged and inspired to choose life over death; light over darkness; love over hate; and hope over despair.

Sincere thanks go to all those who led and participated in all our services and activities, including worship leaders, musicians, readers, those who provided such thoughtful prayers, our children and young people and their leaders, and those who provided the Good Friday Lunch and Easter Breakfast – not forgetting to mention those whose decoration of the church added so much to the impact of the events we were remembering.

The following week we met to share in our Annual General Meeting and heard many interesting reports from all areas of church life. I never cease to be amazed by how much goes on week by week, and thank all of you whose dedication and faith enables all this work to continue as we strive in our mission to be the 'visible expression of God's love for all people.'

FAMILY NEWS

Several members and friends

cont. p.3....

Church Secretary:

Mrs Louise Morgan
Tel: 07773648730

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Barbara Rhys,

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have had some health concerns this month, so we send our good wishes to Lynne Davies, who recently had a cataract operation, and also to Elinor Ludlow, Lesley Richards, Brian Jones and Eileen Newington. In our thoughts also are those with on-going issues, among them Mair Williams, Barbara Clargo and Gladys Mason. We also send best wishes to those now living in residential homes, including Gwladys Brown, Ann Williams and Olive Frost.

Birthday greetings are sent to those reaching significant (although different!) milestones over the coming weeks, including Elinor Ludlow, Jenny McDowell and Helen Harries. We also congratulate

Catrin McCarthy who will be celebrating her eighteenth birthday in May. Many congratulations are sent to Mary and John Prosser who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on May 18.

(It is lovely to share news of birthdays and anniversaries – but I won't know unless you tell me – so, please do let me know of these significant events in the lives of our church family!)

I am delighted to report that Jack McCormack was named as Team Member of the month at the David Lloyd Club for his work in helping children of all ages and abilities to integrate and develop at the club. Well done, Jack!

To all our young people getting

ready to take examinations at whatever level – we wish you every success, and trust that your hard work will be rewarded – but also remember that you are loved and treasured for many things, and that we are not defined by our academic results. We are truly blessed in Beulah with our young people who continually amaze us by what they bring to our church life – as we have seen in the many carefully considered comments from them in their discussions on Transitional Ministry, showing a wisdom and understanding from which we can all learn.

*Every blessing,
Louise*

A very big thank you to our Beulah family for all their love and support, when our granddaughter, Seren, (our little kiwi, returned home from NZ) was christened on Sunday 26 th February. Our family and friends had a lovely day.

Special thanks also to Louise, Barbs, Pat and of course, Ken, for an “entertaining” service! We are so lucky.

Sue & John Reville

After recently suffering from ill health, I am now happily a resident at Dyffryn Ffrwd Nursing Home and I would just like to express my gratitude for the beautiful flowers and good wishes that I have received from the wonderful family of Beulah during my time in hospital and on my arrival here.

Ann Williams.

We would like to express our profound thanks to all in the Beulah family for their generous love and support since the death of Dennis. We have been overwhelmed by all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy.

A special thank you to Ken for such a moving funeral service, Alun for the inspiring music, and Karen for the beautiful flower arrangements. Thanks also go to Barbara and Pat and all those who helped in preparing the refreshments, and of course to everyone who came to support us on the day.

With love,

Janet, Liz, Hywel, Mike, Fleur, Catrin, Anna, Joseph and Rhys.

Follow us on Facebook....

Join “**Beulah Friends**” and see up-to-date news and activities from around the Church.



Concerts at the Crossroads

Wednesday 24th May at 1.05pm

Bute Clarinet Quartet

Tom Howells, Daisy Evans, Darius Gray, Katie Hole

All four clarinetists are post - graduates from the RWCMD and in 2013 they joined together to make this ensemble. They then went on to win the Ensemble prize in the National Eisteddfod in 2014. They were recently accepted onto Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now scheme and as such are committed to outreach work in the community. They have prepared a lively and varied programme.

Wednesday 28th June at 1.05pm

Caryl Thomas, Head of Harp at the RWCMD, is bringing a group of harpists to play in ensemble for us. We will have a fine time fitting them all in! This should be a great finish to the current season of lunchtime concerts!

Tickets £5 on the door as usual

All are welcome!



Croeso i Bawb!

Thank You

A huge thanks to everyone who supported me in the Cardiff Bay 10K Run in April. I was delighted to complete it in just under my target time of 1 hour, and even more delighted to have raised £509.21 for Home4U in the process. Home4U is a small charity that does great work in providing temporary accommodation and support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. It gives these individuals some respite and security while they plan their next steps.

The support and generosity of Beulah friends is always overwhelming, and this heartfelt thank you comes from me, Home4U project team, and the individuals the charity helps.

Helen Harries



CHURCH DEFIBRILLATOR

Beulah has just purchased a defibrillator for use by both the Church and Community. This purchase has been made possible by the generosity of bequests from Mrs Evelyn Rees and Mr D Hugh Morgan.

It is to be placed in a lockable cabinet on the side wall of the church between the entrance to the Whittaker Lounge and the

corner of Beulah Road. This will make it accessible to anyone in need in the local area.

We have organised a training session on its use to take place in the Nance Leaver Room between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on **Saturday 13 May**. There will be a sign up list in the church porch and another in the Whittaker Lounge for

anyone interested in taking part. The training will include the use of CPR as an integral part of training in the use of a defibrillator.

Please do come along if you can as we do need people who are trained. You could help save a life.

Barbara

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY

Weds 3rd: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point
Sunday 7th: **10.30am: United Service at Bethany Baptist, including children**
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Monday 8th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds 10th: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Fri 12th: 3.15pm: Youth Drop-In

Sat 13th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sunday 14th: **10.30am: Revd. Ken Graham, with Infant Baptism of Zachary Morgan**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service

7.15: Youth Fellowship

Mon 15th : 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds 17th: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Sat 20th: Big Day Out to Warwick

Sunday 21st: **10.30am: Mr Derek Evans & Mrs Louise Morgan: Communion**
Junior Church **Coffee served in Canolfan after service**

4.00pm: Afternoon Tea in Canolfan for Christian Aid

6.00pm: United Christian Aid Service at Beulah

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon 22nd: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds 24th: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point
1.05pm: Concert at the Crossroads: Bute Clarinet Quartet

Thurs 25th: 7.45pm: Pastoral Meeting

Fri 26th: 3.15pm: Youth Drop-In

Sat 27th: 10.15pm: WRB Prayer Meeting – Tabernacl Presbyterian Church of Wales, Merthyr Rd, Whitchurch

Sunday 28th: **10.30am: Revd. Peter Noble**
Paradise Run Collection **Junior Church** **Coffee served in Canolfan after service**

Wed 31st: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

JUNE

Sunday 4th: **10.30am: Revd. Ken Graham, with Infant Baptism of Harry Parsons**
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service

Mon 5th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds 7th: 10.30am: Church Office
10.30am: Mid-week Meeting Point

Sat 10th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sunday 11th: **10.30am: Revd Stephen Best with Infant Baptism of Oliver Watts**
Junior Church **Coffee served in Canolfan after service**
12.00: Church Meeting – please note this date and time

May 2017

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

Our theme service this month will be the communion service on Sunday 21st May, when we shall be celebrating our children and young people. We are blessed at Beulah with a younger generation who have so much to offer and have contributed so much to our church life and Christian experience. Their leadership of our Easter worship and their valuable contribution to our Transitional Ministry project are examples of how they enrich our lives and our faith.

Our theme this year is all about moving from the past, through the present and into the future - a process which should only be enriched by generational change. But there are forces in our society which seriously inhibit this process and our service on 21st May will examine the difficulties we all face in gaining the full benefit of the contribution that the next and subsequent generations have to offer.

Bible readings - 1 Samuel 3 vv1-10; Luke 2 vv 41-52; Mark 15 vv6-15

Derek Evans

KIN

Together we care and together we share

Many thanks to everyone who helped us raise money over Easter for Christian Aid.

We raised £303.20 during the Good Friday lunch, £306.20 from the Easter Breakfast, £691.52 from the retiring collections and with £574.75 from Alms Bowls and Small Change boxes, a splendid total of £1875.67.

Christian Aid Week: standing with refugees like Nejebar

Nejebar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

You've helped us be there for refugees since 1945

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. And we still believe in life before death.

This Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May, our church is continuing to walk with refugees by collecting within our community and learning more during special services. We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now. Speak to Lynne Davies to join us.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION 14 – 20 MAY 2017

The Christian Aid house-to-house collection this year is focusing on helping the displaced. Today there are more than 65 million people who have been uprooted from their homes and are seeking refuge. At the heart of this year's appeal is Nejebar and her family, refugees from Afghanistan. Christian Aid was instrumental in aiding refugees post-World War 2 and is still acting as a support for those who face devastation through homelessness, poverty, lack of safety and stability, and without access to their basic needs.

Many churches for a variety of reasons are no longer participating in this collection, but some are raising funds in different ways. Beulah still wishes to participate in the house-to house collection feeling that in addition to fund raising it is an important witness to our faith. Although over the past 3 to 4 years we have been unable to cover all the 48 routes for which we are responsible we still collect from the majority and collect a significant amount of money.

I would like, once again, to appeal for collectors but would be grateful for any offers of help. Many people over the years have notified me of the fact that no-one collects in their street and consequently put their own envelope into the Beulah collection. If that applies to you and you would like either to collect from your road or even from some of the friends and neighbours close to your own house then Christian Aid has said that this would be acceptable. If you would prefer to do this then could you please contact me so that the areas which are being covered can be recorded.

For those who are not aware of how the collection is organised (and there can't be many in Beulah!) the procedure is outlined below:-

- The route list is placed on the vestibule noticeboard. If you wish to participate you merely choose a route and add your name and telephone number opposite the route.
- Christian Aid bags which are marked with the route number, and the streets and numbers from which you are to collect, are to be found at the rear of the left-hand side of the church.
- You may take your route bag whenever it is convenient for you, but the distribution and collection of envelopes may only take place between 14 – 20 May.
- At the end of Christian Aid Week return the bag containing the sealed envelopes to the rear of the church on Sunday Morning.
-

For anyone not covering a set route, envelopes (and collector's information and badges) will be available in the vestibule and you are free to take as many as you need.

If you wish to talk over what any of the above entails please feel free to ring me at home or speak to me in church.

*Many thanks
Lynne (Davies)*

BEGINNINGS

It is interesting and significant how the Gospel writers begin their stories at different stages of Jesus's life. Where they begin depends on the precise purpose of their Gospels – what they were actually writing them for.

John for instance starts at the very beginning before time began: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God". He ignores all the birth stories as he was trying to portray a Cosmic Christ, as he says "these things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah the Son of God – equivalent with God himself - an immense idea which lies at the heart of his Gospel of mysterious debate and argument.

Mark on the other hand is much more down to earth and practical. He begins by saying "This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" - a subversive comment if ever there was one, right at the start of his Gospel, as the Romans believed their Emperor to be the Son of God. This was at the heart of Jesus's conflict with the

Roman oppressors - the same immense idea but a different approach to revealing it, as Mark writes the actual story of the adult Jesus, again no birth stories, because he wants to portray what Jesus actually said and did in summary form.

Differently again, Matthew is concerned through his Gospel to show that Jesus was the fulfilment of the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament. He often refers to this in his story, which begins with a detailed genealogy showing that Jesus goes back to Abraham, the source of the Jewish faith and story. For this reason Matthew goes into detail also about the birth of Jesus and plants it firmly in Jewish history. This Gospel, like Mark from whose content it repeats quite a lot, also describes what Jesus said and did but it has a decided 'Jewish slant'

Luke's Gospel has a different angle from the others because Luke is a gentile doctor writing mainly for a gentile audience, including Theophilus, the Governor of Judea. Luke also has a practical concern for people. All kinds of people, including stories about women

and Samaritans which the other Gospels largely ignore. Luke also sees Jesus as the promised 'Saviour of Israel' and so is much more concerned with social issues than the other Gospel writers. His story begins just before the birth of Jesus with the birth of John the Baptist and gives details other than Matthew's about the birth. It is interesting that only Matthew introduces the magi (wise men) while Luke alone uses shepherds, the lowest of Jewish society, revealing his concern for those 'outside' society through his story – a different slant from the other Gospel writers because they had different interests, purposes and audiences for their Gospels.

Although it is interesting to read these Gospels with some understanding of their different approaches it is even more significant to discover that they all end in the same place – the empty grave and the resurrection. They all emphatically agree that Jesus Christ is risen and we can rejoice with them in that.

Alun

A reminder May 7 at Bethany and May 21 at Beulah

To mark Christian Aid Week which comes later in May, we are coming together with other churches in Rhiwbina in two special services. The morning service on May 7 will be a united one in Bethany - ie there will be no morning worship in Beulah that day, as we are all invited to share together the launch of Christian Aid Week. The invitation is also for our Junior Church children and young

people who will share with those at Bethany.

The evening service on May 21 will be a united service at Beulah to mark the end of Christian Aid Week, and there will be a guest speaker from Christian Aid Wales.

Please note these two special dates in your diaries as we look forward to sharing in together in our commitment to the work of Christian Aid.

Shoebboxes4Syria Helping children in need.

Many thanks to everyone who gave us items for shoeboxes for children in Syria or gave us completed shoeboxes. We were able to deliver 30 boxes last Saturday to Cathays Community Centre where we saw the full scale operation of sorting, wrapping and filling boxes full of gifts for children.

Thanks again for supporting us to help others.

Elaine and Eleri x

Beulah is going camping – and you are invited!

We have set a date for the annual extravaganza that is the Beulah camping weekend. For the families that have taken part, this has become a highlight of the summer – a beacon to be looked forward to, through the long weeks of July and August.

It involves

a beach,

lots of time for children of all ages (including those the world would consider ‘adults’) to play,

fresh air (lots of this!),

good food,

and above all

time to be together away from the usual routine.

It is most definitely not an exclusive club, and ‘the regulars’ (yes, this is Beulah so of course there are regulars!) warmly invite anyone who is evenly remotely tempted, to come along. The experience of ‘first timers’ (I can still remember ours, with a new and rather intimidating tent, and 2 young children) is that everyone mucks in and the children have a whale of a time playing together – and I don’t need to tell you how positive it is for parents to be able to relax with other adults while the children entertain themselves.

As we go as a group, camping experience and equipment are in generous supply – so newcomers need very little.

We asked two younger members what you need to go camping with us and this is what they said

Essential

- Lots of bad jokes and silly stories
- Good sense of humour
- A cake (or several)

Useful

- Tent (but between the regulars we have some that could be lent)
- Stove (to cook marshmallows)
- Biscuits

Optional

- Kites (beware kids might fly off with them)
- Bed time

The dates are **Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September**, (the first weekend after the schools go back), the venue is Pembrey Country Park (just beyond Llanelli - about 1¼ hours from Cardiff). The site is huge, well looked after and pretty much deserted in September. It has good “facilities” including hot showers, and an ice cream parlour, as well as all the fun of the country park.

If you can’t make it for the weekend, we are very keen to welcome day trippers to join us for the Saturday, traditionally spent on the beach, and rounded off with fish and chips in the evening.

If you would like to know more please speak to the Ruddocks, the Wales, the Wilkes, the Webbs, or the Barwises.

Pat Ruddock

Who's Doing What and When

	Mini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader
May				
7th	am Keith Jones	United morning service at Bethany		
14th	am Ian Budding	Ian McDowell	Carol Coleman & Bev Hampson	Brenda Cheer
21st	am Tony Webb	Derek Evans	Betty Evans & Barbarta Clift	John Prosser
	pm	Derek Evans		Jenny McDowell
28th	am Colin Grimes	Mary Bidnell	Trix Pryce & Mair Haywood	Huw Morgan
June				
4th	am Harley Jones	Helen Harries	Eleri John & Pat Agland	James Hall
11th	am Mike Warsop	Anne Wilkes	Mary & Mike Warsop	Jill Ferdinando
18th	am Huw Morgan	Ruth Williams	Ann Grimes & Rubina Lewis	Hollie Glanfield
25th	am Phillip Edwards	Colin Grimes	Richard Sweetnam & Peter Stevenson	Helen Harries



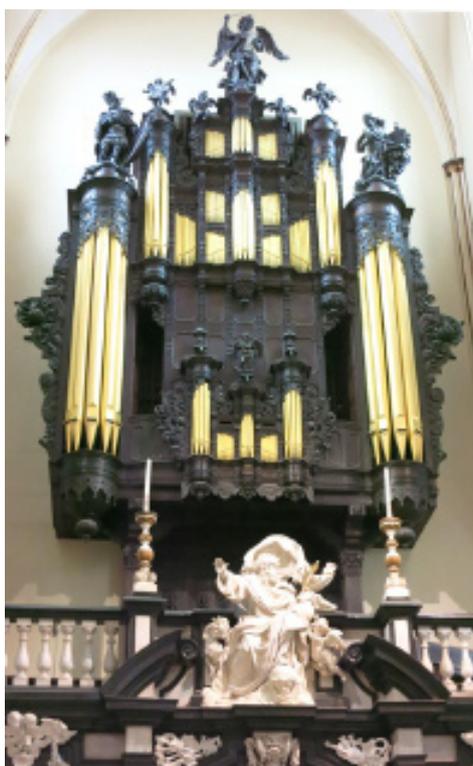
Flower Rota

May

7th -service at Bethany -
 14th Marianne & Nigel Barwise
 21st Anne & Frank Rees
 28th Ray Nash

June

4th Bev & Ian Hampson
 11th Mary & John Prosser
 18th Mair Haywood
 25th Jonathan & Vicki Grimes



Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the June edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 18th May 2017, and Colin will be editing.



Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

e-mail: crossroads@hotmail.co.uk



