

CHURCH NOTES

As we approach what seems to come as a natural break in the church year, we seem to be busier than ever. The Festival is nearly upon us when we join with groups and organisations from all over Rhiwbina to celebrate the summer in many ways. Once again our position at the Crossroads gives us the opportunity to engage with our community, not just for refreshments, but as a sign that we strive to be an active worshipping community at the heart of this village. The installation of plastic which we hope to build outside the church that day is a further sign of concern for our environment and the impact that plastic waste is having on our oceans and the life they support. And the open doors that day show that we are open to all, and we never know who will come through them and how that can be the beginning of something new.

Something new – one of the great things to celebrate this year has been the number of families who have brought their babies for baptism in Beulah. These have all been joyous occasions as families, friends and church affirm and celebrate their delight in new life, and the desire to place this within the context of the church. We have welcomed seven children so far this year, and there will be two more in September!

We also look forward to a wedding at the end of June – that of Owen Williams and Laura Thomas - and know that this too will be day of great celebration and joy for their families. It is at 12.00 on Friday, June 30, and all are welcome to attend the service for this new beginning for the Williams and Thomas families.

Another new venture will be the adoption of a Beulah Football team, about which you can read more on another page. Last September saw the beginning of a new community partnership in Miss Tilley's Community Café which runs in the Whittaker Lounge on Mondays and Tuesdays. We are delighted for

Laura who has won the Volunteering of the Year 2017 award for her work there. We are also pleased that Miss Tilley's will continue to open on Mondays throughout the school holidays.



FAMILY NEWS

It was with great sadness that we learned that Mair Williams had died, after suffering several years of poor health. Our prayers and sympathies are with Gwyn, Judith, Russell and the wider family as they come to terms with their loss. A moving funeral service was led by the Revd. Ken Graham, in which the tributes to Mair reflected her warm, loving and musical nature – and we walked out at the end with smiles and tears to the music of 'I could have danced all night'.

The following day, the news came of the death of Lilian Llewellyn after a stroke in the previous week. Lilian has been an active member and Elder of Beulah over many decades, and we send our thoughts and prayers to Mair, David, John and all the family at this sad time. Her funeral service will be at 11.30am in Beulah on Friday, July 7th.

I have also just heard the sad news that Olwen Charles has died suddenly. Although not a member of Beulah, Olwen had many connections with us, and I know that we will be holding her nieces and nephew, and her many friends, in our prayers at this difficult time.

Other friends have been experiencing illness over the past few weeks, or have had accidents,

and we send our good wishes to Vera Williams, Phil Edwards, Chris Phelps, Elinor Ludlow, John Rhys and Marg Jones.

Many congratulations to Adam John who has graduated with a 2:1 in Religious Studies, and also to Jenny McDowell who has been awarded a Distinction in her P.G.C.E.

Congratulations are sent to Mair Haywood whose ninetieth birthday will be on July 9, and to Seb Cheer who will be eighteen in August.

We send our best wishes to Emily Cheer as she sets off again to work over the summer in the Sanyu Babies' Home in Uganda, and to Jack McCormack who will be heading to Borneo soon. Lydia Edwards is travelling to China this summer, and our best wishes go with her too. Also, Mary Bidnell is off to Sarajevo this week - so we send her our love and prayers for her work there.

I hope that all manage to have some time to relax and recharge over the coming months, as our regular activities begin to wind down for the summer break.

Love and Blessings,

Louise.



Church Secretary:
Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Church Treasurer:
Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves'

(Continued from front page)

unmatched in its scope and how indiscriminately it affects people regardless of faith, creed or colour. If even those living on the edge of war in the Middle East can see the need for serious action then maybe it's time for us to use our voice to help them...

Although links haven't been made connecting the rise of IS with climate change, earlier this year scientists at Columbia University found that the effects of rising temperatures amplified the risk of conflict in Syria. The slow creep of climate change may seem like a distant problem for us in the UK but for those who rely on the land for their livelihood, even in the region of ISIS, it is a matter of urgency.'

As you know, earlier this year as part of Christian Aid's Big Church Switch, Beulah moved our electricity and gas supplies away from fossil fuels to renewable energy by switching to Ecotricity.

On Festival Saturday we will have activities and information as we continue to campaign for a move away from fossil fuels in order to reduce carbon emissions and meet carbon reduction targets.

Our oceans can't stomach any more plastic

Right now up to 12 million tonnes of plastic are entering our oceans every year. Travelling on currents, plastic is reaching every corner of the planet from uninhabited islands in the Pacific, to coastal communities across the UK, to the deepest ocean trenches. Plastic can even be found frozen in Arctic sea ice. The world's oceans are becoming like a plastic soup. Everything from plankton to great whales mistake it for food, while sea birds and turtles become choked and entangled.

Obviously, we are responsible for the waste we produce, and our individual actions to reduce, reuse and recycle make a difference, but plastic has become an accepted way of life and companies are addicted to using it. Together we can demand that corporations redesign their packaging, use refillable containers and support deposit return schemes.

On Festival Saturday we will have games and action cards around this issue also, and we will be constructing a sculpture made of waste plastic ... please come and join us. You too can speak up.

Eileen Newington

Beulah Flowers

Now, did John realise, when he wrote insightfully about the Word at the beginning of the Fourth Gospel, that there is profound and abiding connection between flowers and people? He writes: "through him, (the Word), all things came to be..." It must be that somehow inside the 'all things' mentioned by John, there is an active, unique gene that links people with plants, and plants with people, especially flowers. Whatever the occasion - birth, party, success, wedding, promotion, mourning or just friendship - flowers deliver just the right message. They have the ability silently to speak appropriately for that very occasion. What a talent!

These are some of the thoughts prompted by the two vasefuls of beautiful flowers brought here by Beulah and I have so enjoyed looking at on the table.

Thank you, Beulah. Blessings.

Dewi

Beulah Social Events

Dates for your diaries ...

1st July - Rhiwbina Summer Festival + KIN

16th July - Family BBQ

31st August - Skittles evening

8th - 10th September - Camping

16th September - Murder Mystery evening

24th September - Harvest + Family BBQ

25th November - Beulah Bazaar

2nd December - Rhiwbina Winter Festival



News from Church Meeting

For those of you who were unable to attend Church Meeting, here is a summary of some of the items discussed on 19th June.

Sanctuary Improvements:

Peter Stevenson was thanked for all the work he has put into exploring various options to increase comfort in the pews. This had been handed to the Premises Committee for consideration, and the decision was taken to go ahead with obtaining quotes for raising the book racks to provide more leg room, and to incorporate the communion glass holders into these. The work on upholstering the pew backs will not proceed this year due to the time and cost pressures of other on-going essential maintenance work throughout the church and Canolfan, but it will be returned to at a future date.

Same-sex Marriage Registration:

Following the decision taken at February Church Meeting to apply for Beulah to be registered, the paper work has been completed and submitted to the URC (Synod of

Wales) Trust Company who will send the application on our behalf.

Letting of the Manse:

Barbara reported that the original tenants of the Manse left at the end of their 6 month tenancy and there is now a new family renting it on a 6 month basis.

Beulah Transitional Ministry Consultations:

Lesley reported on this huge piece of work and drew out some of the themes that were emerging. A booklet is being prepared which will be distributed over the summer to every member and adherent of Beulah.

Cardiff Consultations:

Louise reported on the last meeting which took place at Bethesda, Tongwynlais, where Stephen gave a presentation on the transitional work going on there. The next meeting will be in Beulah in July, and Lesley and Eleri will talk about how Beulah is approaching the transitional process.

Beulah Football Team:

We have been approached by James Hall about 'adopting' a football team whose previous church is now unable to support them.

They play in the United Christian Churches League, South Wales, and are keen to continue. As the time scales were tight, the Elders met after church on 28th May and agreed in principle that Beulah might take this on, subject to Church Meeting approval.

(For more Information, see James' article on page 7)

At the AGM of the League the team's application was successful. James explained the background in detail to Church Meeting – please see him if you would like to know more – and the Meeting warmly and overwhelmingly approved the motion to 'adopt' the team, which would be subject to an Annual Review.

Louise

CELEBRATING FAITH: AUGUST - PIONEERS

The focus of the URC material for August is 'Celebrating Pioneers'.

It celebrates those pioneer ministers – lay and ordained - who are exploring the 'unknown territory' that is western society in the twenty first century, finding more relevant ways of sharing the love of Jesus for these times.

The material uses the story of Moses sending out twelve scouts to explore the uncharted territory and report back on the opportunities, resources, strength of opposition and how to proceed.

This story is related to how well we know our communities, and how our churches can become more like Jesus in our communities.

The bible readings for this material are Numbers 13.1-3 and 17-30, and Acts 19 (Paul's work in Ephesus).

You can read more on the URC website: www.org.uk/feasts-and-festivals

Imagining the Kingdom

Jenny, Louise and Marion will be leading the Theme Sunday on 13th August, which has used some of these thoughts as a starting point. We were led to think about some of the faith communities that are in some ways apart from mainstream society.

We wondered about the faith that led their founders to create such communities; what was their vision of the Kingdom of God? What was the future that they were imagining? What are they doing to bring it about? How can we too imagine things differently?

These, then, are some of the questions we will be exploring in the service on 13th August, as we look at the faith and work of people in Corrymeela, Iona and Taizé, three very different communities which have had considerable influence over many years and touched many people's lives.

Louise

KIN - Together we Care, together we share.

There are a number of events KIN happening over early and late summer that are you'll hopefully want to get involved with. So please try and help if you can. The lists for help are up !!

Rhiwbina Summer Festival

Saturday, 1st July, 11.00 - 6.00pm

**Raising money for Mencap
and
National Society for Deaf Children.**

We will have:-

Refreshments being served in the Canolfan.
Margaret Whittaker Lounge will be open in the morning,
and remain open in the afternoon for
A Strawberries and Cream Tea
with cakes, served from 2.00pm onwards.

Cakes needed for the KIN cake stall from 10.00am plus some
for the tea - so its time to get baking!!
We need cakes, cakes and more cakes!!
Plus yourselves of course.

Also Climate change activities will be undertaken in the front of
the church to engage the community - more information on this
from Eileen and Andrew in other pages of Crossroads.

Saturday, 22nd July - Afternoon Tea in the Canolfan

Tickets will be available during and after the Summer Festival.
Come and join us for a relaxing afternoon of tea and cake. We
will be raising money for Syrian Orphanages so please support
this. Come and relax and chat (and we'll wash up!)

Other dates for your diary:

Thursday, 31st August

Yes, its the annual **BEULAH SKITTLES EVENING**. We
may change venue for this, but I will make sure its local
and put the details in the notices.
Time for you to get competitive again!

Saturday, 16th September

Murder Mystery evening - KIN event - which should be fun.
Can you guess who did it????
More details will be available soon.
Tickets may be limited for this, so let me know if you want to
reserve a ticket.

Sunday, 24th September - Harvest Family BBQ after church.

So lots to do, and lots to join in, and have fun.

Eleri and Eileen

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS FOR SUNDAY ROTA

Following up my appeal, last month, I would like to thank my one extra volunteer, thus far, and would ask if there is anyone else who could help out on a Sunday morning, by driving, on rota, possibly once every 6 to seven weeks. You would be joining a group of dedicated volunteers, that includes: Mike Warsop, Huw and Louise Morgan, Keith Jones, Tony and Sarah Webb, Audrey and Ian Budding, Harley Jones, Catherine Tyler, and Ann Grimes and myself.

Each Sunday, currently, we provide lifts for 5 or 6 ladies to the morning service. In the last few weeks, I have been handed a list containing the names of another 7 people who would benefit from having a lift to church. However, this would stretch our existing band of drivers, to a point which I believe would be difficult to juggle in our increasingly busy lives, and would border on the onerous. If you drive, and have your own 4 door car, and can spare twenty minutes before and after church on every 5th or 6th Sunday, please contact me. Your help would be very much appreciated.

If you would like more information, or indeed would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Thank you, in anticipation,

Colin

Editorial Team

Colin Grimes,

and

Huw Morgan,

E-Mail :

crossroads@hotmail.co.uk

Holiday Club

Calling 7 to 11-year-olds!



On **Tuesdays 25th July** and **1st August**

At Beulah United Reformed Church Canolfan
(corner of Beulah Road and Pantbach Road)

9.30 am to 3.30 pm



Advance registration required. Forms available from
Elaine Edwards:
Cost: £4 per day

Canolfan Beulah

It's nearing the school holidays, and we are going to run two holiday club days, in July and August in the Canolfan, for local 7 to 11-year-olds. Depending on interest closer to the time, we may also run a day outing to Cantref Adventure Farm (Brecon) on 15th August.

As you can see from the advert that we will be distributing to local schools, we have a number of exciting activities booked or planned. We are grateful to those who have already put themselves forward to form our core team to run registrations and to lead on the days. We already have some keen other volunteers to help on the days but we need more, to bring their enthusiasm and ideas and to satisfy our obligations for adult to child ratios.

So ... if you have (or know of) children who may be interested, please contact Elaine, and if you are able to offer time on either or both days, please contact Andy Wales or Pat Ruddock. It's going to be fun ...

Come on, BC United!

Beulah's new football team kicks off next season in Division 2 of the United Christian Churches League.

Why football and church? It's a personal story. Sue and I, along with other family and friends, have been watching our son Tom (aka Tommo on the pitch!) play left midfield for the last three seasons for Rhiwbina Baptist Church (RBC) men's team, joined occasionally by our crazy goalie second son, Mat (when he's home from university). Both boys are besotted with football and are big United fans – Manchester, that is! They play alongside a great bunch of lads who have loved playing in this church league every Saturday morning in places as far apart as Aberdare, Rhondda, Ammanford and Newport. Home matches have been at Llanrumney's Cardiff University fields.

Several team members have church connections through family and friends. As RBC they won the league last season and got to the UCCL cup final – losing on penalties (hard to watch!). They have received high praise from those running the league for their sportsmanship and friendliness.

Unfortunately, it wasn't possible for Rhiwbina Baptist to continue running the team beyond the 2016-17 season (for a variety of reasons) and Saturday morning football, loved by players and supporters alike, looked doomed to end. I was approached by Tom and his team members to see if Beulah would be willing to host the



team. As a parent with church involvement, I was keen to help but aware that time was tight and that it was important to talk with people from Rhiwbina Baptist and Beulah. I had some great conversations with the two lead Elders at Rhiwbina and the former team manager who were delighted to think that another church in the village would be willing to host this group of players and to transfer RBC into BC.

So, it's official: following full support from Beulah's Elders, the Church Meeting and the League – Beulah Church United – BC – is born! Is this the very first ecumenical football transfer, I ask?!

As a parent, I am delighted that these young men want to play for a church team and feel so welcomed amongst us. Most live and work very locally (half are teachers).

I see this as a great opportunity for community outreach and a chance to share our faith in a relaxed way (though not during penalty shootouts!). Thank you so much to all in Beulah who have been incredibly supportive.

It keeps a link between these young men and church and we will be working with the team in joint youth and community activities.

Matches will be publicised in the notices and Crossroads when the new season starts later in the summer. It would be great to have Beulah supporters cheering on BC on Saturdays at 10.30.

James Hall,
BC team manager

Charity begins at home

There! I have said it: And if I never hear that phrase again I shall be pleased. It is usually delivered with confident self-satisfaction, by somebody who believes that he is quoting Christian scripture. He most certainly is not. The nearest that might be contrived is 1st Timothy 5:8. (a man's family should be his foremost concern). What the phrase really means is; "No. I will not give you anything. It is all mine and I am going to keep it."

In the Christian sense "charity" can only mean "love"; which most certainly begins at home. Unfortunately, it came to have a very different meaning. "As cold as charity" was often only too true. Even in my own lifetime, it conjures up a vision of middle-class Victorian ladies, with gloves and hats, going out to visit "the poor", and taking gifts of soup and jam, and maybe some old clothes to keep the children warm. Work houses and the Poor Law had nothing to do with love. They were poor through idleness and lack of self control. Diocesan Moral Welfare Associations provided what were virtually prisons for unmarried mothers: And, nowadays, we should regard the sincerely-held attitudes of "respectable people", as sheer bigoted cruelty. No wonder ordinary, humble people regarded "charity" with fear and loathing; and the established Church was very much part of it.

The Jewish attitude is quite different. When you play around with oxymorons (contradictions in terms), you may smile about "jumbo shrimps", "athletic scholarship" or (best of all) "military intelligence": But you can't use "Jewish charity". "Tzedakah" is an essential part of Jewish faith and tradition. The recipient actually does the giver a favour in enabling him to support justice or fairness, and

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CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY

Sat 1st 11.00am - 6.00pm: Rhiwbina Festival Saturday

Sunday 2nd 10.30am: Revd. Malcolm Shapland
Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service
6.00pm: Festival Service at Bethany Baptist
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Weds 5th 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point

Fri 7th 3.15pm: Youth Drop-In

Sat 8th 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sunday 9th 10.30am: Mrs Judy Harris: Family Service. Coffee in Canolfan after service
6.00pm: Film Night: Mrs Betty Evans

Mon 10th 7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds 12th 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point

Sunday 16th 10.30am: Revd. Stephen Best: Worship with Communion
All Age Junior Church Summer Party followed by Church Barbecue Lunch
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon 17th 7.30pm: Junior Church Leaders' Meeting, MWL.

Wed 19th 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point

Sat 22nd 3.00pm - 5.00pm: KIN Tea

Sun 23rd 10.30am: Revd. Martin Wheadon
All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee served in Canolfan after service.

Tues 25th 10.00am - 3.00pm: Holiday Club (ages 7-11)

Sat 29th 10.15am: WRB Prayers: Whitchurch Methodist Church

Sunday 30th 10.30am: Revd. Gethin Rhys
Paradise Run Collection All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee in Canolfan after service.



AUGUST

Tues 1st 10.00am - 3.00pm: Holiday Club (ages 7-11)

Sunday 6th 10.30am: Mr Lewis Head
All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee served in Canolfan after service.

Sat 12th 10.00am: KIN Cake stall

Sunday 13th 10.30am: Worship Team: Jenny, Marion & Louise
All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee served in Canolfan after service.

Sunday 20th 10.30am: Richard & Sarah Edwards: Communion
All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee served in Canolfan after service.

Sat 26th 10.15am: WRB Prayers at St Thomas's Church, Pantbach Rd.

Sunday 27th 10.30am: Mrs Vera Ruddock
Paradise Run Collection All Age Junior Church in Canolfan. Coffee in Canolfan after service.

Thurs 31st Social Group Skittles Evening

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3rd 10.30am: Revd. Sally Thomas
Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service.
6.00pm: United Communion service at Beulah

Mon 4th 7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds 6th 10.30am: Church Office
 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th: Beulah Goes Camping to Pembrey

Sat 9th 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sunday 10th 10.30am: Revd. James Hall with Infant Baptism of Isaac Rooney
Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service.
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon 11th 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

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

Charity begins at home

(Continued from page 7)

in giving the poor their due. There are actually “grades” of giving. The Jewish scholar, physician and philosopher, Maimonides, listed eight; from “giving grudgingly” through “before being asked” and “anonymously” to the very best; which is a gift enabling the recipient to become self-sufficient.

Jesus would have known all about the law and tradition. The great, shining, wonderful difference he made was in saying (John 13:34); “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you”. He would have known all about the more than 600 other commandments. They were about duty, social order, hygiene, conduct, belief etc..

This was different; a new attitude, a new understanding, a new outlook on life, a new relationship with other people – and, indeed, with God. Possibly it was why, when he began to teach, his old neighbours did not understand him.

May I return to my title, and offer you an adaptation of the Scottish version of the saying? “*Love begins at home: but it should not end there*”.

Tony Vinall



Don't forget
your cakes for
Festival
Saturday!



TOGETHER IN PRAYER



The Together in Prayer section of the Wales Synod monthly newsletter is proving popular with individuals, churches and chapels. In response to a request that it be circulated in time for inclusion in church magazines and newsletters, we are now sending an additional mailing each month containing that information for the forthcoming month.

Together in Prayer

Perhaps you might invite those who lead the prayers of intercession week by week in your church to incorporate this prayer calendar into their prayers. A single document containing the prayer calendar for the whole of 2017 is available by e-mail.

Week 27 - 2nd July

Pray for New Bethel United Reformed Church, Pontllanfraith and Aberedw United Reformed Church, Builth Wells
Pray for Bolivia, Chile and Peru

Week 28 - 9th July

Pray for Sardis Community Chapel, Ynysddu and Bryn Zion United Reformed Church, Builth Wells
Pray for Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela

Week 29 - 16th July

Pray for Cwmbran United Reformed Church and Salem United Reformed Church, Maesmynis
Pray for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama

Week 30 - 23rd July

Pray for Ebenezer United Reformed Church and Pontypool Bridgend United Church
Pray for Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

Week 31 - 30th July

Pray for Central Church, Maesteg
Pray for the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Prayers for countries and regions of the world are based upon the World Council of Churches publication “In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle”

Adrian Bulley, Synod Clerk



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						
2nd	am	Keith Jones	Ann Brown	Pam Penny & Denise Dickman	Heather Bishop	Owen & Laura Williams
	pm	Festival Service at Bethany Baptist				
9th	am	Ian Budding	Liz Kidd	Mary Edwards & Mary Prosser	Fleur Richards	In Memory of Geoff Griffiths & Sylvia
	pm		Liz Kidd			
16th	am	Tony Webb	Eleri John	Peter Ferdinando & Jill Ferdinando	Colin Grimes	Kaye Mundy
23rd	am	Colin Grimes	Nigel Barwise	Kaye Mundy & Jenny McDowell	Elaine Edwards	Pat & Cyril Cazenave
30th	am	Harley Jones	Barbara Rhys	Kate Stanbury & Keirsten Eales	Eleri John	Elaine Edwards
August						
6th	am	Mike Warsop	Pat Cazenave	Karen Sampson & John Prosser	Diane Burton	Barbara & John Rhys
	pm					
13th	am	Huw Morgan	Lorraine Larcombe	Glenys Scott & Marion Williams	Derek Evans	Natalie & Rod Samuel
	pm					
20th	am	Colin Grimes	Lynne Davies	Helen Harries & Frank Kinsey	Chris Phelps	Naomi & Martin Williams
27th	am	Keith Jones	John Prosser	Elinor Ludlow & Eleanor Mills	Cathy Wales	Heather Bishop
September						
3rd	am	Ian Budding	Fleur Richards	Duncan Pugh & Christine Pugh	Bronwen James	Louise & Huw Morgan
	pm				Audrey Budding	
10th	am	Tony Webb	Gill Grivas	Diane Burton & Chris Phelps	Brenda Cheer	Mary & Mike Warsop
	pm					
17th	am	Colin Grimes	Lesley Richards	Carol Coleman & Bev Hampson	Anne Thomas	Betty Hulston
24th	am	Harley Jones	Trix Pryce	Betty Evans & Ann Grimes	Anne James	Heather & Colin Bishop



Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **September 2017** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 20th August** and **Huw** will be editing.