



Celebrating our faith - Celebrating the Past, Affirming the Present, Imagining the Future

Isaiah 40: 31

'They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint'.

'Some adventures of the versatile paper clip' – write a story with this as the title.

Nostalgia – we can indulge ourselves as we look back at the past - especially as one gets to the 'senior phase' of life. I remember as a child in Primary School being asked to write a story about 'Some adventures in the life of a penny'.

The versatile paper clip is highlighted above – imagine the exciting tale you might weave around a month/year in 'its' life – think of as many ways of using it, or more than one, as possible. But, above all, what do the coin, the paper clip or the latest vacuum cleaner or space probe, indeed anything designed for a particular purpose **HAVE TO DO**? They all have to be able to do 'the business' - to be **'FIT FOR PURPOSE'**. The paper clip is no use if it does not meet its objective of holding sheets of paper together securely.

Along with the above, we, in Beulah, also need to ensure that we remain 'fit for purpose'. At the busy crossroads of the village Beulah is very much alive, we are thankful. The Church is active and vibrant. Rich in its membership, its adherents and with a wonderful, busy, well attended Junior Church. The 'Beulah team' deals expertly with matters secretarial, the management of resources, maintenance of the fabric, financial matters and ensuring that worship thrives.

Blessed with an imaginative lively and supportive congregation, in worship, in prayer, in music and song, in charitable pursuits, outreach, community participation – Beulah is very much 'fit for purpose'.

As each period in the Christian calendar clicks into place we see opportunities to prepare for and participate in our life in Beulah, in the local community and further afield.

This is the 'pre Advent' Crossroads, starting with All Saints Day and with the following four Sundays taking us up to Advent Sunday with all that we look forward to in Beulah at Christmas. Our focus will then be on celebrating the arrival of our Lord as a baby born in Bethlehem.

If you failed to buy your Christmas cards in January, at half price, there are currently ample stocks in stores and charity shops - but be on the alert since restaurants /pubs are warning that unless you book **NOW** to reserve your Christmas meals you might end up unlucky. Of course the toy shops have got the 'must have' latest high tech. something or other that has been comprehensively plugged on television.

The commercial world relies on Christmas and other noteworthy occasions to rack up the clamour and get the tills ringing.

.....cont p.2

BEULAH

CROSSROADS

**November
2017**



The
monthly newsletter of
Beulah URC

from p. 1...

I recently read that, with two months to go to Christmas, £4 million pounds worth of mince pies have already been snapped up in the past two weeks and that £69 million has been spent on Christmas boxes of chocolates in the month up to the 8th of October. While this is 'bonanza' time in the commercial arena it is small wonder that many families will feel daunted at the prospect of heavy demands on their financial resources and by the general hype. There will be those who require support and care as they come to terms with declining capabilities. We shall be the 'good neighbour' making the difference between surviving and thriving.

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas throughout Advent the children and young people will be rehearsing their parts for presentation to the congregation. As always the Blessing of the Crib will be a 'must'. It is such a familiar favourite and the Church will be full. The long established Christmas Day welcome to some of those who would otherwise have a lonely and difficult time will again be extended by our dedicated volunteers. Carols will be sung in the village.

Help will be given to some as they come to terms with declining capabilities. Good neighbourliness will prevail. Beulah is now and at Christmas certainly will be '**fit for purpose**'.

***Jesus Christ is coming -
make smooth the way of the
Lord.***

Peter Stevenson

CHURCH NOTES

As usual in the autumn we notice an increase in church activities, and we are encouraged by how many people are involved in the various areas of church life. Our worship continues to be rich and varied, led by people from within the congregation, other long-standing friends and some new ones. In October Mrs Anthea Parker led a moving service which highlighted the need for loving God and our neighbour; the Revd. Stephen Best referred to the Reformation and our challenges today; the Revd. Simon Walkling, reminded us of the challenges the URC is facing, and highlighted 'Walking the Way', the URC initiative on discipleship, followed by a moving Communion service. At the beginning of One World Week the Revd. Gerwyn Jones linked the story of Jonah with Jesus preaching in the synagogue and encouraged us to think about who our neighbours are and how we respond to the words of Jesus. This was movingly followed by a reading of the Good Samaritan with a musical accompaniment from our children and young people which underlined the message in a very special way.

One World Week has been marked in a variety of ways, including two ecumenical services and a joint event at which we heard about the work of 'Trio Uganda' – a very challenging and thought-provoking talk from Mr Jon

Sait. We are grateful to KIN for their work in making this happen, and also to All Saints and Bethany. I am writing this ahead of the joint morning service and shared lunch with Bethany, but am sure that the service, led by members of KIN, will be helpful and challenging as we think about the wider world for which we all have responsibility.

The theme for this year's One World Week has been 'Good Neighbours: my world depends on us', and in Rhiwbina we have explored that in our worship, but also in learning about 'Trio Uganda' and the Yemen. The One World Week resources describe being a 'good neighbour' as 'looking out for our neighbours to ensure their needs are met' – and at one level that is true; but I wonder if, in a life guided by faith, the challenge goes deeper than that, and we are led to think perhaps about that word 'depends' and the complicated relationships between different parts of the world. The material also talks about lives being enriched and transformed by understanding each other's perspectives, which is more than supplying basic needs, and aims at 'bringing people together to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world.' Jesus challenges us to do this though love – of God and of our neighbour. We don't just identify who are neighbours are – as Jesus said, we must 'Go and do likewise'.

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Church Secretary:

Mrs Louise Morgan
Tel: 07773648730

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Barbara Rhys,

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

....from p.2

According to Cornel West, an American philosopher and activist, 'justice is what love looks like in public' – something to think about this One World Week. (Thanks to the Revd. Peter Noble for sending this quote!)

FAMILY NEWS

A number of friends continue to have health problems, and we think of Gwynne Rees, Cyril Cazenave, John Prosser, Dewi Lewis, Rob Owen and Elinor Ludlow in our prayers. We also remember those who care for them, and all those who have anxiety for loved ones undergoing difficult times.

Many of us were saddened to learn of the death of Dyfri Jones, a familiar and friendly figure in the Lounge and around Rhiwbina, and our thoughts and sympathies are with Mair and the family at this time.

Birthday greetings are sent to Glenys Scott who will be celebrating a special birthday later in the month.

We were delighted recently to share in the wedding of Ceri Llewellyn (Lillian Llewellyn's granddaughter) to Matthew Morgan, which was conducted by the Revd. Stephen Best.

As a church we are always glad when children are brought for baptism, so it is a triple delight to be able to welcome the family and friends of Lucy, Joseph and Eddie Cavanagh to their baptism ceremony to be conducted by Dr. Alun Jones on October 28th.

*Every blessing,
Louise.*

News from Synod Meeting, October 15, 2017 at Llandrindod Wells

(Richard & Sarah Edwards, Louise Morgan & Eileen Newington attended. For full Minutes and reports, please contact Louise)

Revised Synod Structure

The Meeting passed the resolution to adopt the revised structure outlined in Reports to Synod. *(Further details about this new structure will be shared at a later date)*

Walking the Way

Revd.Kathryn Price gave a presentation about Walking the Way, drawing attention to resources available: leaflets, a book entitled: 'Holy Habits' and on the URC website (www.urc.org.uk), prayers and short films are available for download. Kathryn also spoke about the new 'Stepwise' training scheme which will replace Training for Learning and Serving (TLS) and will be particularly suited to those wanting to step forward and take on a leadership role in their church. There is a Walking the Way Steering Group which invites sharing of ideas/questions from churches.

Churches Mutual Credit Union

Synod Treasurer, Chris Atherton gave a presentation about the Churches Mutual Credit Union: a simple, fair and affordable means of both saving and obtaining credit. More details can be found on the Churches Mutual Credit Union website: mcu.org.uk

Eco Church

Alison Holland gave a presentation about the A Rocha organisation's Eco Church programme. This was followed by a presentation from Eileen Newington outlining Beulah's journey towards its Eco-congregation award.

URC Youth Moderator

Dan Morrell (URC Youth Moderator) gave a presentation on behalf of URC Youth, asking for the voices of young people to be heard, referring to their passion about the world and the church community. Dan spoke about 'church without walls', Greenbelt and providing opportunities to share stories which can transform and make a difference. The Moderator reminded Synod that there will be Tri-Synod Youth event in Nov. 2017 and that stories could also be shared via the Synod Newsletter.

Closing worship was led by the Moderator, during which Richard and Sarah Edwards were presented with their TLS Certificates.

FUTURE DATES:

General Assembly will take place in Nottingham from Friday 6th to Monday 9th July, 2018. Wales Synod may send up to 10 representatives.

Nomination of Moderators of General Assembly, 2020-22:

nominations are now being sought.

Please see Louise for more information.

BIG DAY OUT, 2019:

very early notice is given of the Synod Big Day out on Saturday 29th June, 2019 at the Royal Welsh Showground.

Concerts at the Crossroads

Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday 29th November at 1.05pm

“Let The Bright Seraphim”

Jeffrey Howard – organ, Ellen Williams – soprano
with Corey Morris – trumpet

This vibrant trio welcome the advent season. The programme includes arias for voice (including “Let The Bright Seraphim!”) organ and trumpet, solos and duos. Jeffrey Howard, who needs no introduction to Beulah audiences, has put this programme together showcasing the talent of these two outstanding post-graduates from the RWCMD. A wonderful way to announce the joyful season of Christmas.

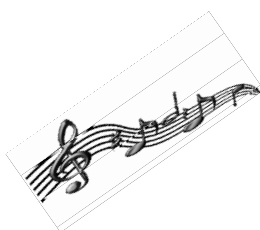
Another enticement, should you need one, is the traditional free coffee and mince pie afterwards in the Canolfan!

Tickets £5 on the door as usual.

NB

Next lunchtime recital is Wednesday 31st January 2018 with Opera students from the RWCMD.

All are welcome!



Croeso i Bawb!

BEULAH PLAYERS present –

“Another Christmas Cracker”

An evening of music and drama with a festive theme
Wednesday December 6th – Friday 8th at 7-30pm
In Canolfan Beulah.

Tickets available from Carol Coleman
Adults £8 / Concessions £7
(Including interval light refreshments)



CHURCH CALENDAR

November

- Weds. 1st: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Sun 5th: 10.30am: Mr Richard & Mrs Sarah Edwards**
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
6.00pm: United Communion Service, Bethany Baptist
7.00pm: Three Choirs Rehearsal
- Mon. 6th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
- Weds. 8th: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Sat. 11th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall
Ladies' Trip to Bath
- Sun. 12th: 10.30am: Remembrance Sunday: Dr Alun Jones & members of the**
congregation
All Age Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
7.00pm: Three Choirs Rehearsal
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship
- Mon. 13th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
7.30pm: Church Meeting
- Wed. 15th: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Sat. 18th: 10.30 - 12.00: Coffee morning for Operation Christmas Child
7.00pm: Beulah Community Concert
- Sun. 19th: 10.30am: Revd. Gethin Rhys: Communion**
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
7.00pm: Three Choirs rehearsal
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship
- Mon. 20th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
- Weds. 22nd: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Sat. 25th: 10.00am- 1.00pm: Beulah Bazaar
10.15am: WRB Prayers: St Teilo's, Whitchurch
- Sun. 26th: 10.30am: Mr. Derek Evans, with Cradle Roll**
Paradise Run **Junior Church**
Collection **Coffee served in Canolfan after service**
7.00pm: Three Choirs rehearsal
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship
- Mon. 27th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
- Weds. 29th: 1.05pm: Concert – Jeffrey Howard (organ), Ellen Williams (soprano),
Corey Morris (trumpet)

December

Sat.2nd: 4.00pm: Rhiwbina Christmas Festival

Sun.3rd: 10.30am: Advent Sunday: Revd. Peter Noble

Junior Church

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.00pm: United Advent Service in Beulah with the Three Choirs

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon.4th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

Weds. 6th: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point

10.30am: Church Office

Weds 6th- Fri 8th: 7.30pm: Beulah Players Christmas Show

Sat. 9th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sun.10th: 10.30am: Members of the congregation, with Communion

Junior Church in their Departments

Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.00pm: Light for our Loss: Revd. Roger Bidnell

7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon. 11th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Weds.13th: 10.30am: Midweek Meeting Point

10.30am: Church Office

1.05pm: Concert by Sine Nomine

7.00pm: Beulah Church Family Christmas Meal at Whitchurch Golf Club

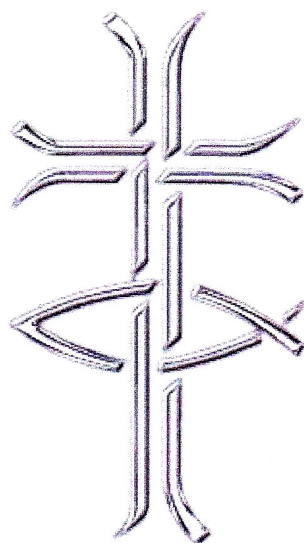
A reminder.....

A monthly Newsletter is produced by the Synod of Wales containing news from the Synod and URC churches around Wales. If you would like to receive this, please let Louise know and she will forward it to you. Alternatively, you can sign up to receive it yourself via the Synod web site:

www.urcwailes.org.uk,

or via their Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/urcwailes



A Date for your diary.....

Don't forget The Beulah Church Family Christmas Meal, which will be held at Whitchurch Golf Club on Wednesday, 13th December, at 7;00pm.

Keep your eyes on the Notice Board in the church Porch for the sign-up sheet.



KIN

Together we care and together we share

Beulah Community Concert

Saturday 18th November at 7.00 pm in the Church

(Please see p9. for further details)

This year's community concert will be in aid of
Live Music Now Wales

LMNW is a registered outreach and development charity which provides music sessions in carehomes, special needs schools, festivals, and more, all around Wales.

"The work of LMN is invaluable: training and inspiring young musicians to take live music to people that might not normally get to experience it, generating transformative experiences for audiences, participants and musicians alike. "

Anne Denholm, Official Harpist to HRH the Prince of Wales

Beulah Bazaar

Saturday 25th November in the Canolfan from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

All money raised will go to Oxfam's work in the Yemen

Stalls

Charity Christmas Cards
KIN Cakes
Christmas Decorations and Gifts
Toys and Games
Jewellery and Scarves
Bathroom Gifts
Refreshments

We would welcome donations of good children's toys, bathroom gifts, Christmas decorations, gift bags etc., jewellery and scarves.

Please bring your items for the stalls to the Studio
(upstairs in the Canolfan) on any Sunday during November,
or on Friday 24th Nov from 6.30pm.

Cakes can be brought to the Canolfan on the morning from 9.00 am.
There will be a list to sign nearer the time if you can help on the day.

KIN continued....

Rhiwbina Winter Festival Saturday 2nd December

This year we are inviting people to produce a flower arrangement that represents a favourite carol. These will be displayed on the church window sills, and should create a beautiful and peaceful space for quiet contemplation amidst the hustle and bustle of the festival.

All money raised both in the Church and the Canolfan will go to Christian Aid's **'Enough for Everyone' Christmas Appeal.**

Please speak to Barbara Rhys if you can help with refreshments.

Dates for your diary

Carol Singing around Rhiwbina in aid of Action for Children

We are pleased to join with Bethany and All Saints again this year for our Carol Singing. Exact times, routes etc will be available nearer the time, plus a list to sign for help with refreshments.

KIN Christmas Coffee Morning

This year we are trying something new!!

(As Christmas Day is on Monday this year, we will hold our Christmas Eve carol singing outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge on Saturday 23rd Dec starting at 10.15 am).

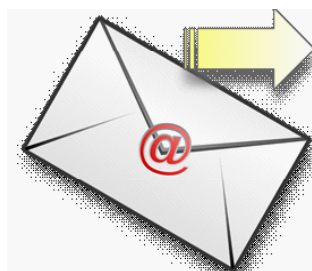
The KIN Coffee Morning will then be held as a continuation of the carol singing at about 11.00am in the Canolfan.

This means we can share the event with our friends from Bethany and All Saints, and hold the coffee morning close to Christmas for that extra festive feel!

Your chance to support Fair Trade.

Christmas cards will be on sale in Canolfan after morning service on the following Sundays:

:12 November 2017
:19 November 2017
(In time for Scout post)





Together in Prayer

The Together in Prayer section of the monthly newsletter is proving popular with individuals, churches and chapels.

Week 45 5th November

Pray for St. David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, staff of Cytûn,
and the Moderator, staff and churches of Northern Synod
Pray for Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda

Week 46 12th November

Pray for Castle Square United Reformed Church, Treforest,
staff of Christian Aid Wales,
and the Moderator, staff and churches of North Western Synod
Pray for Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Principe

Week 47 19th November

Pray for Van Road United Reformed Church, Caerphilly,
our ecumenical partners in Wales,
and the Moderator, staff and churches of Mersey Synod
Pray for Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial
Guinea

Week 48 26th November

Pray for Hope and Market Square United Church, Merthyr Tydfil,
and the Moderator, staff and churches of Yorkshire Synod
Pray for Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

Beulah Community Concert **Saturday, 18th November at 7:00pm**

John's article in last month's Crossroads described the way in which music helped forge links between people, bringing people closer together as a community. Over the last few years, Beulah has put on a number of "Community" performances – Messiah and Vivaldi's Gloria among them. This year, John has invited all who sing or play (or indeed listen) to come together for a concert, and looks forward to hearing from you, by either e-mail or phone

cheerfamily1@outlook.com

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Who's Doing What and When

		Mini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader
November					
5th	am	Tony Webb	Ian McDowell	Mary Edwards & Peter Stevenson	Vera Ruddock
	pm			United Communion at Bethany	
12th	am	Colin Grimes	Colin Grimes	Jill & Peter Ferdinando	Mary Edwards
19th	am	Mike Warsop	Andrew Glanfield	Keirsten Eales & Karen Sampson	Ruth Williams
26th	am	Harley Jones	Derek Evans	Jenny McDowell & Kaye Mundy	Peter Stevenson
December					
3rd	am	Huw Morgan	Richard Edwards	Helen Harries & John Prosser	Lorraine Larcombe
	pm		Richard Edwards		
10th	am	Catherine Tyler	Fleur Richards	Glenys Scott & Marion Williams	Richard Edwards
	pm		Fleur Richards		
17th	am	Keith Jones	Liz Kidd	Eleanor Mills & Frank Kinsey	Peter Ferdinando
	pm		Liz Kidd		
24th	5.00pm	Ian Budding		Blessing the Crib	
	11.15pm	Colin Grimes	Nigel Barwise	Christine & Duncan Pugh	
25th	am		Jill Ferdinando	Betty Evans & Eleri John	Liz McCarthy
31st	am	Tony Webb	tba	Barbara Clift & Chris Phelps	Pat Ruddock



Flower Rota

November

6th Barbara Clift
12th Nesta & Alan Thomas
19th Eleri John
26th Trix Pryce

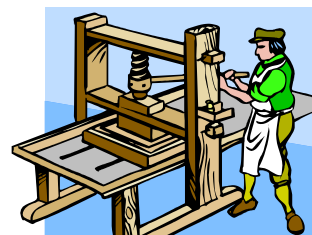
December

3rd Diane Burton
10th Alan Wilson
17th Tanya & Nick Hampson
24th Mary & Lesley Richards
31st Gill Grivas & Angela Holliday



Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the December edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 19th November 2017, and Colin will be editing.



Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

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