



CROSSROADS

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



*Enough for everyone this Christmas
with Christian Aid*

But life has been hard for Colette. She was forced to work at a gold mine every day to earn money to feed her family. Colette spent days at the mining site without finding any gold to sell. She made so little money that she was not able to buy nutritious food. Her daughter Eulalie was very ill and weak, and was diagnosed with malnutrition.

Like Colette, we enjoy and look forward to our special Christmas food, but we often have too much. Isaiah 58:10 shows God's love for the hungry and oppressed. Jesus revealed this by feeding the hungry many times. When we respond to the hungry and needy, we reflect the light of Christ – "your light will shine from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as the noon."

(Continued on page 3)

CHURCH NOTES

December promises to be a full and varied month with much to do – including the Rhiwbina Festival at which Beulah will display flowers to illustrate carols; the Beulah Players show, carol singing around the village with Bethany and All Saints, a musical coffee morning, the Christmas Day lunch at Beulah - and much more.

But let's not forget to make time to reflect on why we are doing these things: we will contemplate the growing light symbolised in our Advent candles as the darkness recedes and we join with others all over the world in walking towards the light revealed in Jesus. This is our Advent and Christmas Theme – 'Walking towards the light', which we will pick up in many ways, including in our Advent writings, art work, outreach and fund raising – and, of course, not least, in our worship.

As usual, we will be able to attend a variety of services, addressing different aspects of what Advent and Christmas mean to us. There will be evening services as well as morning ones for the first three Sundays of Advent; on Christmas Eve the little ones will treat us to 'Blessing the Crib' at 5.00pm, and Roger Bidnell will lead midnight Communion from 11.15pm. Finally, on Christmas Morning, we will rejoice in celebrating Christ's birth at a family service at 10.45am, led by Mr Geraint Richards.

There will not be a morning service on Christmas Eve – it is such a full weekend with

demands on many people. There are many other services and events in a very short space of time at which all are welcome, so we hope that you will be able to join in as many of these as you can.



If you wish to attend any of the additional services through Advent and Christmas, and would like transport, please do get in touch with Colin Grimes or Louise Morgan and we will arrange lifts.

Thank you to all those who took part in the nomination of elders process this year. At the November Church Meeting we were delighted to confirm the appointments of Mary Bidnell and Tony Webb (who are returning elders) and Sarah Edwards who will serve for the first time. The ordination and induction service will be on January 21, 2018. Church Meeting was also delighted to approve Fiona Liddell's request to transfer her membership to Beulah, and this will take place during the service on the 10th December.

FAMILY NEWS

Several members and friends are experiencing health problems at the moment, in hospital or at home. We send our love and prayers to Ann

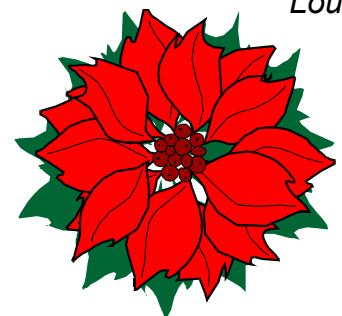
Brown, Cyril Cazenave, Zena Jones, Elinor Ludlow, Viv Jones, Rubina Lewis and Alun Jones – you are all in our thoughts, as are those who love and care for you.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Lena Cruchley's father this month, and send love and sympathy to Lena and her family at this sad time. Our sympathies and prayers are also with Duncan and Christine Pugh and their family, following the tragic death of Duncan's nephew's wife, and the serious injury of her baby.

Birthday greetings are sent to Yvonne Phillips, who is celebrating a special milestone this month, and we were delighted to hear that Keith and Gill Jones have become proud grandparents to their first granddaughter.

Love and blessings to you all this Christmas, and my deepest thanks for your continuing support for all that Beulah tries to do,

Louise



Church Secretary:

Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Church Treasurer:

Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

*Enough for everyone this Christmas
with Christian Aid*

(Continued from Front Page)

In our Advent theme of 'Walking towards the Light' we look to our hope in the incarnation, and think of ways in which the Light can be reflected in us.

As we worship God this Christmas, we can try to show that Light by taking actions as individuals and as church, to pursue justice in all the ways we can. Only, perhaps, when people are freed from injustice, the oppressed set free, the hungry fed and the homeless housed will we truly see God's favour shining like the morning sun, (Isaiah 58.8), and be able to step forward towards the promise of his glorious light in Christ.

When we walk in his way, we offer others the chance to share in the light which shines through the darkness, and which the darkness can never overcome.

At the Festival on December 2nd, we will be raising money for the Christian Aid 'Enough for Everyone Christmas' appeal...

You can further support the appeal by committing to not buying at least one thing that you know would be wasted. You can turn that pledge into a donation to Christian Aid's work providing life-saving aid and long-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

(This article includes an edited version of an article provided by the 'Enough for Everyone Christmas Appeal' church resources).

Louise

Thanks

Once again, we would like to thank our kind drivers, who transport us every Sunday morning to Beulah. Thank you to Catherine Tyler (Bronwen's eldest daughter) who has kindly volunteered to join the happy band. They are always so kind and cheerful, and we all are most grateful for their help.



They are: Audrey and Ian Budding, Ann and Colin Grimes, Keith Jones, Harley Jones, Louise and Huw Morgan, Catherine Tyler, Mary and Mike Warsop, and Sarah and Tony Webb. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Edwards, following the loss of Phillip, who was one of our faithful drivers over many years.

We would like to give them all, and their families, and to all the Beulah family, our thanks and best wishes for Christmas and for 2018.

Best wishes,

*Bronwen James, Margaret John, Margaret Maynard,
Joyce Matthias, Joan Ridley and Elinor Ludlow.*

Concerts at the Crossroads

Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 1.05pm

A group of opera students from the RWCMD

A selection of songs and arias

This concert has now become an annual event and has proved very popular. Four opera students plus their accompanist from the RWCMD will come and perform a programme of favourite songs and arias - plus the occasional new one to keep us on our toes and our ears alert!

Come and hear the opera singers of tomorrow at this concert.

Tickets £5 on the door

Date for your diary

Wednesday 28th February at 1.05pm

**Jessica Robinson – soprano
Pianist TBA**

Report of Church Meeting - 13th November 2017

Thirty nine merry souls braved the cold and dark for our November Church Meeting. It was a packed agenda and, by kind permission of the attendees, we over-ran slightly to fit all the business in.

Following our prayers of gathering, led by Louise Morgan, we confirmed that the minutes of the previous meeting of the 17th September 2017 were an accurate record and that there were no matters arising which were not on the agenda. Minutes of all our Church Meetings are in the Church Office (along with copies of any presentations and papers), please just ask Louise if you'd ever like to see them.

Our first substantive item was to consider and confirm our **2018 budget**, ably presented to us by Barbara Rhys. As always, Barbara, together with our Finance and Premises Committees, had done a wonderful job on our behalf and all involved were thanked by Church Meeting. After going through the figures, the budget for 2018 was unanimously agreed by Church Meeting.

The subject of improving communications in respect of upcoming meetings, in the form of email amongst members, was raised and it was agreed to pass this to the communications group, led by Duncan Pugh, to discuss at an early opportunity.

Our next item was an update from Louise on the '**quick wins**' we identified through our transitional ministry consultation process. These were recorded in the 'What Now?' section of the 'Celebrating the past, Affirming the present, Imagining the future' booklet that Lesley Richards and Eleri John kindly created for us. Louise reported that there has been progress on a number of the quick wins:

- Communication – an article with all of Beulah's advent activities and services has been placed in Rhiwbina Living. Our work on communication is

being taken forward by a small group convened by Duncan Pugh. If anyone is interested in being part of this work please contact Duncan.

- Fundraising - the social group have been working hard on the Beulah 2018 Calendar idea and these will hopefully be ready for sale at the Beulah Bazaar. The proceeds for this will go to the charity Health Help International.
- Outreach - all of our young people at university have been contacted and asked if they'd like to be sent Crossroads.

There are many other ideas that are listed in the booklet under these three headings and also under the headings of 'Welcome Pack' and 'Worship'. However, to take some or all of these forward we need willing volunteers. If anyone would like to help make these great ideas a reality for Beulah please speak to Louise. Without your help, these will sadly remain just ideas.....

Louise also reported that she had obtained some leaflets entitled 'What is the United Reformed Church' which briefly cover the URC's history, beliefs and organisation which might be helpful to members both new and old. A supply of these will be placed in the porch or please ask Louise for one. I felt particular affinity with one quote the leaflet contains which explains that the URC has a 'lack of hierarchy and a respect for individual conscience'.

Our next item was an **update on transitional ministry** from Marion Williams on behalf of our transitional ministry team. Those who were there, or who read my report in Crossroads, will remember that, at our 17th September Church Meeting, we received and discussed our 'themes' which emerged from the consultation:

- Reaching Out
- Growing Together

- Worship and Faith
- Caring and Sharing
- Doing Well, Doing Better?

Together with the underpinning theme of Communication.

Since then, we have also seen our 'statements of affirmation' for each of the themes, which were circulated with November's Crossroads, and at this Church Meeting we received the final instalment of the trilogy which was a proposal for our 'provocative proposals' for each of our themes.

Church Meeting broke into six groups and each group discussed one of the sets of proposals. Each group then fed back to the whole meeting. The proposals were welcomed and there were very many helpful comments and suggestions which were gratefully noted down and will be used to refine and enhance our provocative proposals. Importantly, Church Meeting noted and agreed that Jesus should be at the centre of all we do. Church Meeting thanked Marion and all of our transitional ministry team for their endeavours to date.

Our next substantive item was to discuss the proposed **annual theme for 2018**. Nigel Barwise, Anne James and I presented the output of an Elders' workshop that had been held in November on this topic. The first thing the Elders considered was whether we actually want a 'theme'. Elders agreed that having a theme was good, particularly for framing Beulah's focus and narrative for visiting ministers. The Elders then went on to consider a range of documents and ideas from a list of our previous themes to the URC's Mission Values and 2020 Vision and Christian Aid's 5 Key Foci, and through the World Economic Forum's "Ten Biggest Global Challenges" to the Welsh Government's 18/19 budget.

(Cont on p.5)

Report of Church Meeting (cont from p.4)

A 'Wordle' summarising the Elder's discussions is below.

The Elders unanimously agreed on the theme of 'Walking the Way'.

Walking the Way, Living the Life of Jesus Today is a new URC initiative (not a URC annual theme per se) which aims to "focus on lifelong Christian discipleship and mission":

"Walking the Way explores what it means to actively follow and learn from – and to be eventually transformed by – Christ. It's for everyone at any stage of the Christian journey – whoever you are, whatever your existing relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church is, whatever your personal circumstances. It's for you whether you have been following Jesus for five days or five decades."

Elders felt this linked very well with the powerful statement and challenge that came out of our own transitional ministry consultations: *"What would Jesus do if he turned up at Beulah tomorrow?"*

Church Meeting then heard how the Elders thought the theme might be taken forward which would, in a similar approach to 2017, be 'light touch', and through a variety of activities.

Church Meeting approved the proposed 2018 theme of 'Walking the Way' and this will now be developed further and taken forward by a small group led by Nigel and Anne and hopefully one or more of our new Elders. They would also welcome volunteers and anyone who is interested in this should contact either Nigel or Anne.

Our final item was to agree our **three new Serving Elders** who will be Sarah Edwards, Mary Bidnell and Tony Webb. Church Meeting warmly approved and welcomed all three and gave thanks for their time and talents. Church Meeting also thanked our retiring Elders, Lesley Richards, Richard Edwards and myself, for their

dedication and service over the past 4 years.

There were a couple of items under 'What is the URC?' leaflet *"the Any Other Business"*. Firstly, Church Meeting warmly approved Fiona Liddell's request to transfer her membership from St David's to Beulah, and she will be received into membership on 10th December. Secondly, Church Meeting agreed that we would again explore the proposal of having Church Meetings at different times of the week.

I very much hope to see you at the next meeting on the **26th February**

Andrew Glanfield
(Chair, Church Meeting)



CHURCH CALENDAR #1

DECEMBER

Sat 2nd 4.00pm Rhiwbina Christmas Festival

Sunday 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

Sunday 10th 10.30am **Led by Members of the congregation, with Communion, and reception into membership of Dr Fiona Liddell**
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

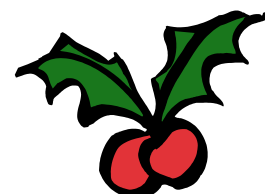
7.30pm Elders' Meeting

Weds 13th 10.30am Midweek Meeting Point

10.30am Church Office

1.05pm Concert by Sine Nomine Singers

7.00pm Beulah Church Family Christmas Meal at Whitchurch Golf Club



Sunday 17th 10.30am **Senior Department Christmas Service**
Coffee served in Canolfan after service

6.00pm **Carol Service**

7.15pm **Youth Fellowship**

Tues 19th 7.00pm Carol Singing from Beulah

Weds 20th 10.30am Midweek Meeting Point

10.30am Church Office

7.00pm Carol Singing from All Saints

Thurs 21st 7.00pm Carol Singing from Beulah

Fri 22nd 7.00pm Carol Singing from Bethany

Sat 23rd 10.30am Carol Singing outside Whittaker Lounge

11.15am KIN Coffee Morning with Christmas Music

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th

No Morning Service

5.00pm **Blessing the Crib**

11.15pm **Midnight Communion**

Christmas Day
Mon 25th

10.45am **Mr. Geraint Richards**

Sat 30th WRB Churches Together Prayers in Rhiwbina Baptist Church

Sunday 31st 10.30am **Family Service: Mr Richard & Mrs Sarah Edwards**
Paradise Run
Collection
Coffee served in Canolfan after service



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

KIN - Together we care and together we share

We raised £336 from the **Community Choir** event held on 18th November. Proceeds were given to **Live Music Now**. Many thanks to John Cheer for organising this concert and to everyone involved in the event.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Beulah Bazaar** - behind the scenes organising, setting up, publicising and promoting the event, making, cooking, baking, selling, clearing up etc etc,. We couldn't have done this without you.

The next events

December 2nd – Rhiwbina Winter Festival – Raising money for **Space4U, Christian Aid, Huggard Mulled Wine and Stollen** being served in the **Margaret Whittaker Lounge**. Proceeds will go to **Space4U**. **Flower Display** - If you are interested in contributing please contact Karen Holbrook. We are inviting people to produce flower arrangements that represent favourite carols. These will be displayed on the window sills in church and should create a beautiful and peaceful space for quiet contemplation amidst the hustle and bustle of the festival. All proceeds will go towards the **Christian Aid 'Enough for Everyone' Christmas Appeal**. Pledge cards in the shape of Christmas decorations will also be available for people to sign.

Canolfan – Refreshments of hot dogs, soup, bacon butties, tea, coffee, etc., will be available. All proceeds will go to the Huggard Centre to finance a days of lunches for everyone from their kitchen. This will be raised by our kitchen for their kitchen.

Please let us know if you can help with anyone of the above events.

December 10th – Ann Grimes would be grateful to once again receive your gifts of Christmas Food/Chocolates for families who are supported by the Family Intervention Support Services and **Cardiff Children Services** [no alcohol please]. Please bring your gifts along to the Church on Sunday 10 December or hand them to Ann Grimes. Thank you.

Carol Singing around Rhiwbina in aid of **Action for Children**. We are pleased to join with Bethany and All Saints again this year for Carol Singing. Please look out in the notices for further details of times/dates and routes. A list to sign for help with refreshments will be available nearer the time.

Beulah Christmas Card – proceeds will go to **The Samaritans**.



KIN Coffee Morning. As Christmas Eve is on Monday this year we will hold our Christmas Eve carol singing on Saturday 23rd December – outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge, starting at 10.30am, and then at 11.15am the KIN Coffee Morning will be held over in the Canolfan as a continuation until 12.15. Father Christmas may be visiting too!! Bethany and All Saints will also be sharing this event and joining us.

All proceeds raised will go **Ronald McDonald House in Cardiff UWH** which opened in Cardiff this autumn. Ronald McDonald House Cardiff, is a purpose-built House just a few moments from Noah's Ark Children's Hospital, and has 30 en-suite bedrooms to provide free accommodation to families of children being treated at the hospital. There are also communal kitchens and living areas where families can spend time together away from the ward. It offers support and a safe environment where families can share their experiences with others in similar situations. The children's hospital expects to provide specialist medical care for up to 100,000 children each year. The existing hospital accommodation is not able to accommodate every family who needs to stay close to their sick child, and Ronald McDonald House Cardiff will provide free family accommodation for up to 30 families each night.

The Ronald McDonald House help families strengthen coping abilities by keeping families together. Parents whose children have longer hospital stays benefit from higher quality sleep at a Ronald McDonald House compared to parents who slept at their child's hospital bedside. Ronald McDonald Houses provide spaces to play. Playing with other children experiencing similar situations can help these children cope with trauma.

Ronald McDonald Houses could save a family with a sick child as much as £282 per week in unexpected extra costs, such as travel, eating out and hotel bills.

Eleri John

CHURCH CALENDAR #2

JANUARY 2018

Fri	5th	7.00pm	Beulah New Year Family Party
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Mrs Vera Ruddock Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service 6.00pm United Communion Service at All Saints
Mon	8th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Weds	20th	10.30am	Midweek Meeting Point
		10.30am	Church Office
Thurs	11th	7.45pm	Pastoral Meeting
Sat	13th	10.30am	KIN Cake Stall
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Revd. Roger Bidnell Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service 7.15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon	15th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Weds	20th	10.30am	Midweek Meeting Point
		10.30am	Church Office
Thurs	18th	7.00pm	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at All Saints
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Revd. Stephen Best: Family Communion Service to include the Ordination & Induction of New Elders Coffee served in Canolfan after service Church Family Lunch 6.00pm Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Bethany Baptist 7.15pm Youth Fellowship
Mon	22nd	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Weds	24th	10.30am	Midweek Meeting Point
		10.30am	Church Office
Thurs	25th	7.00pm	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Beulah
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Revd. Malcolm Shapland Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service 7.15pm Youth Fellowship
			<i>Paradise Run Collection</i>
Mon	29th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Weds	31st	10.30am	Midweek Meeting Point
		10.30am	Church Office
FEBRUARY			
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Revd James Hall Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after service 6.00pm United Communion, Beulah: Revd. Gethin Rhys



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to everybody who supported the Coffee and Cake Morning, last Saturday, to raise money to send the shoeboxes. Due to the generosity of so many people we raised a brilliant total of £452.85p.

A big thank you to all those

wonderful Beulah cake makers; those who donated gifts; those who helped on the day; and, of course, all who bought the items and donated money on the Saturday and Sunday morning.

My rooms at home are full of shoeboxes and gifts waiting to be sent. Colin and I are taking our first

collection this Saturday, and it looks like we have reached over a hundred boxes. I will give a detailed account in the next newsletter.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Love,
Elaine



Seeing the Power Point Screens

We have been increasingly aware of the difficulties those attending worship are experiencing in seeing the Digital (data) Projection Screens. We have a new projector on order, which should give help clarity, and are planning training for worship leaders in the New Year on good practice in Power Point planning. I have drawn together some simple guidance around visual impairment, as a temporary measure.

Print should be a clear font such as Arial, between sizes 28 to 40. For a hymn aim for one verse and one chorus filling each screen.

Avoid picture backgrounds, and use strong colour contrast. The use of red, dark grey, brown, green or purple for text and backgrounds should be avoided. Black writing on white or yellow is clearest.

Keep to clear headings and use upper and lower case lettering. Also keep format left aligned, rather than random, both help clarity.

Use of video's or charts should include a verbal description of unspoken action by the person presenting. Avoid flashing or blinking objects.

Good lighting is key to those seeing in their seats, but may need reducing in the projection area to help clarity of the image.

Marianne



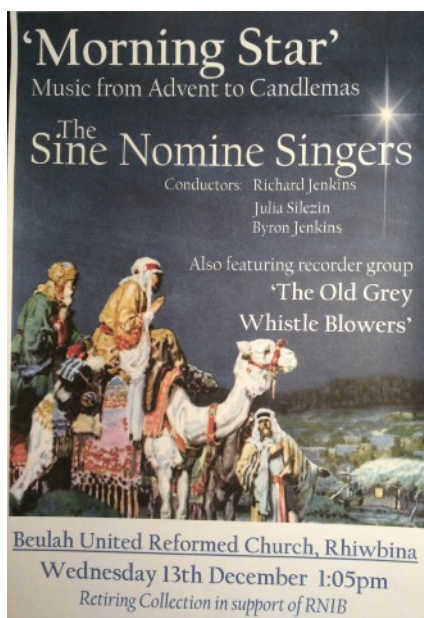
The Sine Nomine Singers

are very pleased to be returning again to
Beulah at 1.05pm
on **Weds 13th December**
with a programme of music for
Advent and Christmas entitled
“Morning Star”.

This year we will be joined by a
recorder group called
“The Old Grey Whistle Blowers”.

There will be a retiring collection
in support of the
**Royal National Institute
for the Blind.**

Peter Ferdinando



Christmas Swags

Christmas
Swag orders
are now
being taken.
Please sign
the list in the
porch



or
contact Karen Holbrook.

They are £7.50, and will be
ready for collection on the
9th and 10th of December.

Thank you
Karen

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 [2018](#) is available to download.

3rd December - Pray for Bethany United Reformed Church, Ystrad Mynach, and the Moderator, staff and churches of East Midlands Synod. Pray for Liberia and Sierra Leone.

10th December - Pray for Hall Street Church, Llanelli, and the Moderator, staff and churches of West Midlands Synod. Pray for Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

17th December - Pray for Hill United Reformed Church, Mount Pleasant, Swansea, and the Moderator, staff and churches of Eastern Synod. Pray for Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

24th December - Pray for Tabernacle United Reformed Church, Mumbles, and the Moderator, staff and churches of South Western Synod. Pray for Ghana and Nigeria.

31st December - Pray for Uniting Church Sketty, Swansea, and the Moderator, staff and churches of Wessex Synod. Pray for Stateless people and migrants.

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](#)”

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>
December						
3rd	am	Huw Morgan	Richard Edwards	John Prosser & Helen Harries	Lorraine Larcombe	Diane Burton
	pm		Richard Edwards			
10th	am	Catherine Tyler	Fleur Richards	Glenys Scott & Marion Williams	Richard Edwards	Alan Wilson
17th	am	Keith Jones	Liz Kidd	Frank Kinsey & Eleanor Mills	Peter Ferdinando	Nick & Tanya Hampson
24th	5.00pm	Ian Budding and/or	TBA	Blessing the Crib		Lesley & Mary Richards
	11.30pm	Colin Grimes	Nigel Barwise	Duncan and Christine Pugh		
25th	am	TBA	Jill Ferdinando	Betty Evans and Eleri John	Liz McCarthy	
31st	am	Tony Webb	TBA	Barbara Clift and Chris Phelps	Pat Ruddock	Gill Grivas & Angela Holliday
January 2018						
7th	am	Colin Grimes	Gaynor Rees	Bev Hampson and Carol Coleman	Louise Morgan	Elinor Ludlow
	pm	Colin Grimes	United Communion Service at All Saints			
14th	am	Harley Jones	Gill Grivas	Trix Pryce and Pat Agland	Kate Hampson	Margaret Clee
21st	am	Mike Warsop	Elaine Edwards	Lynne Davies and Mair Haywood	James Hall	Pam Penny
28th	am	Huw Morgan	Anne Wilkes	Ann Grimes and Rubina Lewis	Huw Morgan	Joyce Matthias
February						
4th	am	Catherine Tyler	TBA	TBA	TBA	Alan Wilson
	pm		United Communion Service at Beulah			
11th	am	Keith Jones	TBA	TBA	TBA	Andy and Cathy Wales

28th October 2017

Hello,

On Sunday I received flowers with a smile. Thank you, Barbara Rhys. Thank you Beulah.

On Monday, more flowers arrived. It is a treat to be surrounded with them. What a wonder flowers are. Their silent beauty, their variety of shape, size, and colour. It is absorbing to sit alongside them and notice the delicate shades even within one flower. They definitely have a language of their own yet too shy even to whisper! Each flower is a miracle of creation, the product of soil, moisture, warmth and that hidden energy we call life.

How come that there is this on-going closeness between people and flowers? Every generation, every age and every culture share and cherish this relationship. That is an absorbing subject and it has 'challenged' me for years. I want to believe there is a



clue in the very word itself - flower. Those four letters, 'f l o w', surely hold the secret. That is, flowers by their very name, are social entities. They 'flow' in our direction; they want to meet us, to greet us; they do not want to be distant or detached. Flowers are social and communal. That is why they are such universal communicators of mutual interest, sympathy and good wishes. They are indeed one with us. They carry and convey person to person messages, feelings, shared emotions, even silent solidarity. Flowers flow and in so doing they express their own inner nature. From time immemorial, from one generation to the other, flowers keep on flowing towards people, spreading their message of oneness with every other living cell.

Beulah and friends, your gift of flowers bring to mind, emotion and spirit a whole universe of wonder.

Thank you with joy.

Dewi

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **February 2018** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 21st January 2018** and **Huw** will be editing.