



Walking the Way - Living the life of Jesus today

Work

'Let's go to work' – mob boss Joe Cabot's memorable phrase in Quentin Tarantino's film *Reservoir Dogs*, an uncomfortable watch with an iconic soundtrack. The 'work' in this case was a ruthless and violent bank robbery undertaken by a gang of hardened criminals.....

"I love my work", "I can't stand my work", "all work and no play...", "no rest for the weary", "work hard, play hard", "the hardest work is to go idle", "I've been working like a dog", "hard work never hurt anyone".....and the list goes on.....

I've not been at work for the past 3 weeks. Many staff in universities all over the UK are taking industrial action in protest over proposed major reforms to their pensions. Like many, I also enjoyed the snowy couple of days which further added to my sojourn out of the office. This is the longest I've not been at work since being a student myself. I feel guilty. I feel liberated. I feel lazy. I feel peaceful.

I've not been 'at work' but I have been 'working'. But it's a different kind of work. I've been doing overdue jobs around the house and garden, I've had a daily jog, I've picked up the kids from school and spent time with them in the afternoons. I've been working on various documents for transitional ministry and I've been writing this! I've also read books, practiced my guitar and have met friends for lunch. I've actually been doing a bit of 'real' work in the evenings too so as not to let colleagues down. Truth be told, I don't know how I

managed to fit 'work' in.

So, is work just about the pay? Those who enjoy their jobs or who may be lucky enough to have jobs which identifiably serve God's work are blessed. Many find that they cannot easily draw a strong or clear connection between their daily labours and the benefit to their fellow man, outside of providing much needed income for their families.

Many also cannot find the work they so desperately need. Pictures from the Great Depression of the 1930s, showing lines of women and mostly men desperately queuing and waiting for work, any work, remind us just how lucky most of us are to have jobs. Still, many in our society cannot find work or, with the continuing casualization of workforces, decent work. Then there are those who have acute disabilities, debilitating illnesses or major caring responsibilities for whom work seems like a treasured object always just out of their reach.

The Bible has much to offer on the topic of work. The general theme of the Old Testament is to encourage hard work, particularly in the support of one's family. Work and nurturing are very often intrinsically linked. Genesis 2:15 introduces us to perhaps the first Alan Titchmarsh: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Honest hard cultivating work, this is something God seeks from all of us who can. But

CROSSROADS

**April
2018**



The
monthly newsletter of
Beulah URC

work alone is not enough. God's words tell us that only by working hard with faith in mind, will we be led to the great things he has planned for us. As Colossians 3:23 tells us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters". Conversely, James' letter to the early church is all about action. James 2 explores the interdependence between faith and work: "What good is it for people to say that they have faith if their actions do not prove it?" (v14), "So it is with faith, if it is alone and includes no works, it is dead." (v17).

Those of us who were blessed to hear Dr Edmund Plummer preach on the 11th March, as part of his work supporting Health Help International, heard the story of the sheep and the goats from Matthew 25:31. This is a challenging text but I commend it to you if you are not familiar with it. This parable reveals to us the message that our faith alone isn't enough. We are called to do works in the name of our faith – we must show what we believe by what we do, and only then may we join our Shepherd's flock.

Henry Thoreau was a famous American writer, naturalist, historian, abolitionist and civil rights campaigner who wrote an essay in 1849 entitled "Civil Disobedience", an argument for disobedience to an unjust state. As I continue to join colleagues in a similar struggle, I would like to leave you with a quote of his:

"It is not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is, what are we busy about?"
- Henry David Thoreau

Church Secretary:

Mrs Louise Morgan

Church Treasurer:

Mrs Barbara Rhys,

CHURCH NOTES

The transitional work has continued over the past months and our Feedback Form was approved at the Church Meeting at the end of February. An option for Ministerial Deployment was due to be discussed at a Meeting on March 18th, but the weather decided otherwise! The meeting was re-scheduled for March 25th, so by the time you read this, you should know what the outcome was. The Feedback Form and the option (if approved) will be sent to the Cardiff Transitional Team for circulation, and the new Regional Pastoral Committee for Cardiff and Penarth will meet at the end of April to consider all the forms and options. They will then make recommendations to the churches to consider, and we hope that we will be able to discuss these at a Church Meeting on May 13th. As we approach Holy Week we remember again the familiar story and in our worship and prayers through the week will walk with Jesus and the disciples as they travel those last days. In our Lent Studies, we have written on paper footsteps some thoughts about our journeys through Lent towards Holy Week, and these will have been used in our Palm Sunday worship. These may represent the feet that danced through the streets of Jerusalem to welcome the Messiah on Palm Sunday; which perhaps slowed hesitantly as

where the road was leading became more apparent; and then ran in horror from what was unfolding, to tip-toe softly and fearfully in back alleys in search of shadows. Some, though, kept going, especially the women, right to the end, and then walked slowly away to emptiness and despair. Yet on the morning after the Sabbath, the footsteps of some of the women turned back and led them to the tomb, perhaps tentatively and hesitantly as they faced the last thing they thought they could do for Jesus. We can only imagine how light and swift their footsteps became as they then ran in amazement to share with others what they had learned. And because we know the end of this story, we can bear to walk through this week, trusting that out of the agony and despair comes new life, new hope, a new reality.

Please join us for as many of our services as you can – details of times are elsewhere in Crossroads – we particularly look forward to our ecumenical Walk of Witness on Good Friday, which is a new joint event. My thanks to Fiona Liddell and Anne Wilkes for sharing with Ken Graham in preparing and leading the joint Lent Study Groups, which have been of great value to members of both City and Beulah, not just in the topics discussed, but in deepening the relationships

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from p.2.....
between the two churches.

FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry to hear that Kate Stanbury's step father has died, and send our thoughts and prayers to Kate, Keith, Sam and Josh at this sad time.

Our good wishes are sent to all who have been unwell or receiving treatment over recent weeks, including Eileen Davies, Cyril Cazenave and Ann Williams. We remember them, their relatives and

carers in our prayers, and all those who are facing anxious times. At this Easter time, we also remember those who are no longer able to get out so much, and send Easter greetings to them all, including John Rhys, Gwladys Brown, Ann Williams, Gladys Mason, Barbara Clargo, Gwynne Rees and Jean Rogers. Birthday greetings are sent this weekend to Margaret Maynard who is celebrating a special birthday. Warm congratulations are given to Mary and Roger Bidnell

who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 16th. May I thank you all for your continuing support to Beulah through the on-going work on Transition and in the mission of our church, and wish you all the blessings of a Happy Easter, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus – the Lord is risen indeed – alleluia!

Louise

KIN Fundraising Group

On Sunday 11th March it was a great privilege to present a cheque to Dr Edmund Plummer for £702 for Health Help International on behalf of KIN and everyone in the church. The money was raised through the Blessing of the Crib Service, Junior church selling vegetables and people buying the Beulah Calendar. It was also good to hear about the direct work HHI do and how we can continue to help. We will try and support HHI later this year - so keep an eye on the notices!

On 24th March we held the Eve Appeal cake and coffee morning in the Canolfan - helping to raise awareness and funds for research into Ovarian Cancer and other womens' gynaecological cancers.

Events for your calendars.....

30th March - Ecumenical Walk of Witness - including the Good Friday Lunch in the Canolfan

There will be Walk of Witness through Rhiwbina on Good Friday morning starting with a short act of worship in Bethany at 9.30, moving to All Saints for 10.30 for worship and hot cross buns, finishing at Beulah at 12noon for the workshop service led by young people, followed by lunch.

We're pleased that the Good Friday Lunch of soup and bread will therefore be shared with our friends from Bethany and All Saints.

Please join us if you can, donations will be for Shelter Box.

Alms Bowl Collection - Are you giving something up for Lent or doing something extra and different? If so could you put money aside during Lent as part of the Alms Bowl collection? All money raised can be brought to our Easter Sunday Morning service and will be sent to Christian Aid.

1st April - Worship in the Garden followed by Easter breakfast - donations will be used towards Shelter Box

Concerts at the Crossroads

Lunchtime Recital

Wednesday April 25th at 1.05pm

Tomos Xerri – harp

It is ten years since the regular lunchtime concerts started in Beulah. So many young, and sometimes not so young, professional musicians have passed through our doors and been welcomed by our audience and given us in turn magical moments, when time has stood still and the serenity of Beulah's atmosphere has taken over.

Ten years ago in April 2008 the harpist Meinir Heulen came and started the series by playing from her harp collection. It therefore seemed appropriate to try to find a young harpist to celebrate the anniversary.

Tomos Xerri is Cardiff born but on being awarded a music scholarship to Eton his subsequent focus became more London based. He has won many prizes and is currently working on a Fellowship scheme with the Philharmonia Orchestra. He is in demand as a soloist but is also a keen teacher and outreach musician.

More lunchtime recital dates for your diary

May 30th Blackweir Brass from the RWCMD

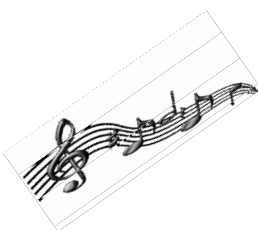
Five undergraduates have formed this group and come highly recommended by the Head of department at the College.

June 27th Vesta Trio

The unusual combination of flute, harp and viola will provide lovely easy listening in the last concert before the summer break.

Tickets £5 on the door as usual.

All are welcome!



Croeso i Bawb!

Soup and Sandwich Lunch

****Rearranged date** April 15th** - Youth Fellowship are holding a soup and sandwich lunch after the service on April 15th to raise money for their forthcoming trip to Caldey Island in August.

Please come along to support our young people and enjoy homemade soup and sandwiches.

Hope to see you there.

Thank you
Youth Fellowship.

Editors' Note

The deadline for articles for the May edition of Crossroads is Sunday, 22nd April, and Colin will be editing.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

MARCH

- Mon 26th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
7.30pm: Prayers for Holy Week, Whittaker Lounge
- Tues 27th: 7.30pm: Prayers for Holy Week, Whittaker Lounge
- Weds 28th: 1.05pm: Concert: Charlie Lovell-Jones: violin
7.30pm: Prayers for Holy Week, Whittaker Lounge
- Thurs 29th: 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday – Communion in the Upper Room:
Revd. James Hall
- Fri 30th: 9.30am: Ecumenical Walk of Witness starting at Bethany
12.00: Service for Good Friday led by children & young people
Followed by soup & bread lunch

APRIL

- Sun 1st:
Easter
Day** 8.45am: Worship in the Garden, followed by Easter Breakfast
10.30am: Family Worship with Communion – Revd. Roger Bidnell
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
6.00pm: Communion in the Whittaker Lounge – Dr Alun Jones
- Weds 4th: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
- Sun 8th:** 10.30am: Mrs Vera Ruddock
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
- Mon 9th: 2.30pm: Women's Fellowship
- Weds 11th: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Sat 14th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall
11.00am – 3.00pm: Cardiff & Penarth Churches Day, Parkminster URC
- Sun 15th:** 10.30am: Mr Derek Evans & Mrs Louise Morgan: with Communion
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
Youth Fellowship Soup & Sandwich Lunch
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship
- Mon 16th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
7.30pm: Church Annual General Meeting
- Weds 18th: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office
- Thurs 19th: 7.30pm: Pastoral Meeting
- Sun 22nd:** 10.30am: Mr. Geraint Richards
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship
- Mon 23rd: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship
- Weds 25th: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
1.05pm: Concert at the Crossroads; Tomos Xerri (harp)
- Sat 28th: 10.15am: WRB Prayers at Bethel Baptist Church, Whitchurch
- Sun 29th:
Paradise
Run Collection** 10.30am: Mr. Andy Wales
Junior Church
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Mon 30th: 2.00pm: Women's Fellowship

MAY

Weds 2nd: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office

Sun 6th: 10.30am: Mrs Judy Harries – All Age worship
Coffee served in Canolfan after service
6.00pm: Ecumenical Communion Service at All Saints
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Weds 9th: 10.30am: Mid-Week Meeting Point
10.30am: Church Office

Thurs 10th: 7.30pm: Elders' Meeting

Sat 12th: 10.00am: KIN Cake Stall

Sun 13th: 10.30am: Mrs. Anne Wilkes
Junior Church
CHURCH MEETING AFTER SERVICE (proposed date- TBC)
7.15pm: Youth Fellowship

Concerts at the Crossroads

Ten years on

I think it is appropriate at this ten - year anniversary point in the lunchtime concert series, to thank the Beulah team behind the concerts and to remind ourselves of its history.

Cathryn Hales set the ball rolling when she decided to act on an idea that Creighton had discussed with her about the desirability of having regular classical music concerts in the church. Her music loving aunt knew of this and gave a generous cheque to Cathryn, which she in turn donated to the church. This enabled the series to be run on a professional basis right from the word go with our artists being paid basic rate fees and it is good to note that we have remained self - funding.

Peter C.J. was enthusiastic and approached me to see if I was interested in being involved.

Coincidentally, I had been thinking for some time that I wanted my work in London to wind down and because of my home situation wanted to have more Cardiff - based work. I knew of a similar church run series in London and Peter's suggestion felt just right and ten years on I still feel very enthusiastic about the series. Marg and Alun, who had previous experience with concerts in Beulah, gave strong backing and Marg became the maker and organizer behind the posters. Heather and Colin are keen concert goers and Heather is highly efficient at running the "front of house" aka the porch area on concert days. Colin has made fine artistic contributions over the years. Richard Carter is computer literate and oversees and manages the programme production. Cathryn has kept her involvement looking after the inner man/ woman of our performers and she has an amazing memory for who is vegan, who is gluten free who doesn't like mayo etc. etc!

We are a great team with everyone knowing their role so a huge ongoing thank you to everyone involved!

Trix Pryce



Rhiwbina Churches:

‘Walk of Witness’



on Good Friday - 30th March 2018

...stopping for a short act of
worship in each Church.

Start - at Bethany Baptist Church

Heol Llanishen Fach – 9.30am

Continue - to All Saints Church

Heol y Felin – 10.30am

Finish - at Beulah Church

Heol y Deri – 12.00pm

The times marked indicate the start of the service in each venue, before we walk together - behind the cross to the next venue.

Refreshments will be served after the service in All Saints Church, and a light lunch will be available following the service at Beulah.



Glancing Back...



...Looking Forward

**a day for anyone interested
to learn from the transition time,
develop discipleship,
and develop direction.**

With Stephen Best, Gareth Dyer & Simon Walkling

Saturday 14th April, 2018

11 am to 3pm

**Parkminster URC, Minister Rd, CF23 5AS
(please bring your own lunch)**

Further information available from the Synod Office 02920 195729

Please let Louise know if you are interested in going

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION

13 – 19 MAY 2018

This year Christian Aid week falls within “Thy Kingdom Come”, an ecumenical global prayer movement which is taking place over the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. These prayers are asking the Holy Spirit to enable our effective evangelism and witness, particularly relevant as we set out on our House-to-House collection.

This year Christian Aid is focusing on giving aid to Haiti. Hurricane Matthew ripped through Haiti in 2016 and the island has still not recovered, with thousands of people still having to live in makeshift shelters so yet again Christian Aid is helping the displaced who face devastation, homelessness, poverty and with no access to their basic needs.

At the heart of this year’s appeal is Marcelin and his three teenage daughters forced to share a 2m x 2m concrete block, once a communal shower. It has no windows and the only furniture a single bed - this tiny space is home. Marcelin says that if they faced another hurricane they would die.

Prosperity Raymond, Haiti Country Manager for Christian Aid says this:- Your efforts make a huge difference. We’re all connected: we’re all daughters and sons of God. And as you knock on your neighbours’ doors, you’re bringing love and hope to your sisters and

brothers in Haiti and across the world. This Christian Aid Week, you’re bringing God’s Kingdom closer, helping families and whole communities lift themselves up – and you’re saving lives. Love and blessings from Haiti

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 13 – 19 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 or speak to me in church.

*Many thanks
Lynne (Davies),*

Who's Doing What and When

		Mini-Bus Driver	Duty Elder	Stewards	Pulpit Reader
April					
1st	am	Catherine Tyler	Nesta Thomas	Kate Stanbury & Kaye Mundy	Seb Cheer
	pm		Nesta Thomas	Communion in M W L	Diane Burton
8th	am	Keith Jones	Fleur Richards	Keirsten Eales & Mary Prosser	Chris Phelps
15th	am	Ian Budding	Viv Jones	Mary & Mike Warsop	Colin Grimes
22nd	am	Tony Webb	Lorraine Larcombe	Jill & Peter Ferdinando	Derek Evans
29th		Colin Grimes	Liz McCarthy	Peter Stevenson & Frank Kinsey	Elaine Edwards
May					
6th	am	Harley Jones	Elaine Edwards	Ann Grimes & Richard Sweetnam	Eleanor Mills
	pm			United Communion at All Saints	
13th	am	Mike Warsop	Anne Wilkes	Bev Hampson & Pat Agland	Eleri John
20th	am	Huw Morgan	Derek Evans	Audrey Budding & Mair Haywood	Fleur Richards
27th	am	Catherine Tyler	John Prosser	Rubina Lewis & Barbara Clift	Heather Bishop

Flower Rota

April

1st Fleur & Hywel Richards
 8th Ann & Colin Grimes
 15th Cathryn Hales
 22nd Gaynor Rees
 29th Jill & Peter Ferdinando

May

6th Viv & Harley Jones
 13th tbc
 20th tbc
 27th Anne & Frank Rees

e-mail: crossroads@hotmail.co.uk

GDPR

The General Data Protection Regulation is in force from 25th May.

It's nothing scary, but we will need to:

Make lists of the personal data we have and what we do with it.

Have ways of finding anyone's personal data to show them what we have and to delete it if appropriate.

Explain in our privacy notices how and why we use personal data, and look again at our consent forms.

Review our data procedures for children.

Know what to do if there is a "personal data breach".

Any questions, please speak to me. I'll try and help!

Nigel Barwise.