

CHURCH NOTES

This long spell of hot weather reminds me of the hymn, 'Summer suns are glowing over land and sea' which we used to sing when I was young. We were fortunate to enjoy a couple of days in beautiful West Wales recently, and spent time looking out at the sparkling, dappled sea, and it certainly seemed as though 'all earth's thousand voices' were singing their 'psalm of praise'. A week or so later I experienced the sea in different mood when a visit to Caldey was 'delayed by rough seas' and we had to go a day late.

The 'sea' theme continues into worship as we embark on our 'Jonah' month – and our thanks are extended to Vera Ruddock for co-ordinating this, and leading one of the services herself. In his service on Jonah, which included a reading from Matthew about Jesus calming the storm, Iestyn Henson reminded us that in the Bible the storm is often a metaphor for the ups and downs of life.

The sea also featured prominently in the Rhiwbina Festival when we learned about the effects of plastics on our oceans and rivers and the creatures and plants that live in them, and the consequent damage to the eco-systems and human life too. It was encouraging to see the church and community coming together over this issue as we joined with 'Rhiwbina against Plastics' to highlight the problem. Many people came in to watch the presentation in the church and to look at the creative displays of waste plastics and the net 'wall' created by Jo Jones and the children. Let us hope that the pledges that we and others made that day will help to make a difference and that we will

continue to campaign for the use of recycled, recyclable and reusable packaging.

FAMILY NEWS

Two members have sustained broken bones in recent weeks – Bronwen James fell and broke her wrist whilst on holiday in North Wales, and Beverley Clay has broken a bone in her foot. We send them both good wishes for a speedy recovery. We also think of others who have had recent treatment, or who are about to, including Pat Hooper and Ron Leech.



We were delighted to hear the news that Carol Coleman has been awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to amateur dramatics and the community. We in Beulah have particularly benefited from Carol's gifts in her work with Beulah Players, the Junior Workshop and in Junior Church services and productions. Congratulations are also due to some of your young people who are graduating from university this summer, including Oliver Eales and Lydia Edwards. It was good to hear too that Adam John has been awarded his PGCE. Others may not have received their results before publication (or I just haven't heard yet!) – but we will no doubt be able to share more news in September.

Kath A'Heerne has recently moved into residential care, so we send our best wishes to her as she settles into her new home.

We are saddened to learn of the sudden death of the Revd Kim Fabricius, a URC minister who was known to some at Beulah. He served for many years at Bethel URC, Sketty, Swansea, and has been described as a 'a fine theologian and a great wit'. We remember his family and the congregation at Bethel in our prayers.

Some of our young people are visiting Caldey this summer, and we hope that they have a wonderful time in this very special and spiritual place. Our thanks to their leaders (Elaine Edwards, Liz McCarthy, Marion Williams and Sean Allen) for giving up time out of their summer to accompany them.

Finally, as church activities slow down a little over the summer months, may I thank you all for your continuing support and work for Beulah as we journey to discover what it is Christ wants us to do, and hope that everybody finds some time for some rest and relaxation.

Every blessing,

Louise

Church Secretary:
Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Church Treasurer:
Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

Membership

Following the article in last month's Crossroads I have been approached by a couple of people who are considering membership. We will be arranging some sessions with the Revd. Gethin Rhys in the autumn, so if anyone else is interested in exploring further, and would like to join these sessions, please speak to me soon. It would not commit you to membership but might be helpful in answering any questions that you may have.

Louise

Meeting with the Moderator

The Cardiff and Penarth Regional Pastoral Committee is considering the possibility of extra posts to support ministry in Cardiff and Penarth. These might include a Church Related Community Worker (CRCW) or a shared youth and family worker. To explore this further the Moderator, the Revd. Simon Walkling is visiting churches to discuss what might be possible and what the churches would like from such posts. Youth and Children's Work was identified in the Transitional work as one of Beulah's priorities so this is of particular interest to us. Simon will be visiting us for a meeting on **Thursday, 12th July at 7.30pm** in the church to talk about this. We would encourage all those with an interest in youth and children's work to attend, including: Junior Church leaders and helpers; Drop-In and Youth Fellowship leaders, Holiday Club organisers and helpers, Youth Strategy Group members, and of course parents and young people as well.

URC National Synod of Wales

Weekend Conference for Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th October 2018

@ The Metropole Spa Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

WORSHIP LEADING FROM A PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE with Samantha White from Westminster College

A £10 deposit will secure your place with the remaining cost for URC participants subsidised through the support of the Synod of Wales.

For further details contact David Salsbury: trainingnorth@urcwales.org.uk, 01745 571591

Memories of Weddings in Beulah

John and I have just celebrated our 61st Wedding Anniversary with great joy having had these years together. We met as teenagers in Pontypridd Scouts and Guides. After being members of Beulah for 55 years, our one regret is that we were not married in Beulah. We know so many people attending Beulah now who were married here, many whose weddings were long before ours. So we thought how lovely it would be if those couples would like to write a letter in the Crossroads and tell us all about their Special Day, from their

point of view, about the church as it was then, the Minister, the service, the preparation beforehand, the Breakfast, their first homes, perhaps mentioning bridesmaids and church organisations. Also, this idea might appeal to any widow or widower who was married in Beulah. We are so sure that their stories would be of great interest to members of our Beulah family.

Love and Many Blessings to everyone,

John and Mary

BIG DAY OUT 2019

Saturday 29th June

Royal Welsh Agricultural Showground



KIN (Kindred in Need)

Together we care and together we share

By the time you read this we will have been involved in Rhiwbina Festival.

I just want to say a big *THANK YOU* for all the help and support in selling cakes and jewellery, involvement in activities, making tea/coffee and refreshments, and highlighting the problems of our plastic use.

By making the connection between lack of clean drinking water, poverty and plastic pollution we raised **£400** for **Water Aid** on the day.

We also raised over **£200** for **Space4U** for their work with asylum seekers and refugees at the drop-in centre.

Both these charities will benefit in so many ways from your support, so *THANK YOU* once again.

Other KIN events

15th July - Family BBQ after the church service

Late August - our Annual Skittle Competition! **Date to be announced** - please contact me at the beginning of August to find out the date or look at weekly notices.

September 29th/30th is Harvest Weekend

This year we will be joined on both Saturday and Sunday by James Buchanan from Operation Noah (see separate item in Crossroads)

Saturday 29th - Bright Now

An evening and workshop with light refreshments led by James around the campaign for fossil free churches

Sunday 30th - Harvest Service led by the Eco Group followed by a Church Family BBQ, raising money for Operation Noah

3rd November - Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway evening - join us for fun, food, a quiz, music etc. Maybe even consider dressing up!!

More information to follow.

24th November - Beulah Bazaar

1st December - Winter Festival

Eleri



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

PROMISES FOR THE PLANET

‘Jesus said “Gather up the pieces. Let nothing be wasted.”’ John 6:12

Blue Planet 2 opened many eyes to the plastic pollution in our oceans.

What we didn't see was the impact plastic waste has on the world's poorest communities.

By acting on waste, we seek to care for the earth and love our neighbours living in poverty.

I promise to take my own water bottle and ask for a refill.

In the UK we buy 38.5 million plastic bottles every day – around half of these are recycled; the rest go to landfill or end up as litter.

I promise to try a biodegradable or compostable toothbrush.

Every year in the UK we throw away over 260 million toothbrushes which take hundreds of years to breakdown (friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics/beauty-and-beast-plasticfree-bathroom)

I promise to refuse plastic cutlery with takeaway food.

By 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish. By refusing a plastic knife and fork with your lunch each working day of the year, you could personally save 466 items of unnecessary plastic.

I promise to donate to WaterAid (wateraid.org.uk) and Wasteaid (wasteaid.org.uk)

Millions of people in the world's poorest countries have no access to safe drinking water and have no systemised waste collection where they live. To stay alive they have to buy endless bottled water, and then live amongst the rubbish it creates.

I promise to use a reusable coffee cup rather than disposable ones.

Around seven million coffee cups are thrown away in the UK every day. By using a reusable cup on your commute you could prevent 233 cups going to landfill each year.

I promise to choose natural fibres and avoid buying synthetic clothing.

Microfibres from our clothes are poisoning the oceans. Tiny plastic fibres get washed down the drain, attract toxic chemicals and enter the food chain.

I promise to check my teabags for plastic.

Many traditional teabags contain plastic used as a sealant. The amounts of plastic are tiny, but in Britain we get through 165 million cups of tea a day. Composted tea waste releases billions of plastic microparticles. At the moment, Pukka and Twinings Pyramid teabags are plastic free.

I promise to call for levies on single - use plastics.

The Marine Conservation Society is calling for levies on single-use plastics which are used for a moment and then last a lifetime in our oceans. Their price does not reflect the damage they do. Please sign the petition at www.mcsuk.org/appeal/plastic-levy 'In learning to give up, we gradually learn to give; in learning to sacrifice, we essentially learn to share.'

Patriarch Bartholomew 1,
Archbishop of Constantinople

My summer holiday promises for the planet

I promise to take my own reusable water bottle with me and refill whenever I can.

I promise to buy good quality buckets, spades and inflatables that can be used on future holidays (because beach toys can't be recycled).

I promise to freshen up with a packet of mints instead of chewing gum (which contains plastic and is not biodegradable).

I promise politely to refuse plastic straws in cafes and restaurants.

I promise to buy loose fruit and vegetables instead of pre-packed ones - or try to grow my own!

I promise to use a lunch box instead of plastic sandwich bags.

I promise to use a bar of soap instead of liquid soap in a plastic bottle.

I promise to buy ice-cream in big recyclable tubs instead of individual ice-creams each wrapped in plastic.

We need your support



The community of Fair Do's/Siopa Teg embraces a large number of people from all walks of life, as well as organisations, and you as a customer are a key part of this.

"Sale or return" sales and events account for nearly half of our annual turnover, with the remainder of sales coming through the shop till.

Together, over the past 20 years, we have made a big impact - selling fair trade products and educating about fair trade in Canton.

You may know from your visits to the shop over the past few years, that it is becoming increasingly challenging to generate the additional sales we need to ensure the sustainability of the shop.

We would like to continue being a fair trade presence in South Wales, and we are working hard with the Fair Do's community to make this happen.

We would like to invite you to play a part in this - could you:

- Give out flyers to friends and family, and encourage them to shop with us regularly?
- Pass on flyers to organisations, workplaces, events venues that you have links with?
- Suggest that your workplace, club etc buy their tea & coffee from us?
- Pass on our details to a school, workplace, or place of worship which may wish to use our "sale or return" service to run a regular or occasional fair trade stall?
- Book an evening at the shop, when you could bring a group of people to learn more about fair trade and do some shopping?
- Follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook - please share our posts?
- Join our team of volunteers?

If you would like more information about this, please get in touch with us - info@fairdos.com, or have a chat to the staff or volunteer at the till.

We value your support, and hope that you will join us in generating the additional sales we need, to ensure that our fair trade producers continue to have a show case for their products in Canton.

Best wishes from the Fair Do's team.

CHRISTIAN AID HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION

13 - 19 MAY 2018

Dear Collectors, Contributors and Supporters,

Once again my grateful thanks to you all for your invaluable help, support and donations again this year. Eighteen collectors covered 28 out of the 48 routes and we managed to achieve the creditable sum of £1,502. The amount of cash which was 'Gift Aided' was £566 resulting in a further £141.50 realising a final total of £1,643.50.

The end result is shown with a comparison of 2015, 2016 and 2017:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Money raised	2,645.00	1,927.10	2,014.00	1,502.00
Money Gift-Aided	1,172.03	962.80	882.28	566.00
Total from Gift Aid	293.00	240.70	220.50	141.50
FINAL TOTAL	2,938.03	2,167.80	2,234.50	1,643.50

Once again I would like to thank you all for your time and generosity.

Lynne

Towards calling Ministers to the Cardiff and Penarth Regional Pastorate

The Regional Pastoral Committee met on 5th June and approved the option for ministerial deployment that all the churches had considered since the previous meeting. A summary of the June 5th meeting was presented to Beulah's Church Meeting on 19th June, and Derek, our representative on the RPC, will report more fully in the September Crossroads.

We have been given a timescale in which all the churches must prepare and submit their individual Profiles so that they can be combined into a Pastorate Profile in order to go through the necessary procedures for the vacancy to be declared. This time scale is reproduced below for those of you who were unable to attend the Church Meeting:

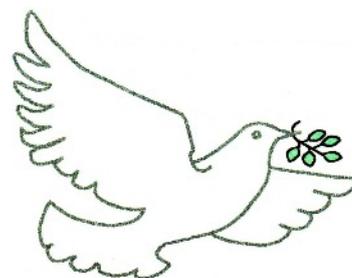
Monday 3rd September	Deadline for individual profiles from churches
Tuesday 25th September	RPC meeting to discuss collated version
First week of October	Profile sent to Church Secretaries
Later in October	Churches to plan for a Church Meeting to endorse the combined profile.
Tuesday 4th December	Synod Pastoral Committee to review the paperwork and declare the vacancy.
Weds 5th December	Vacancy tabled at Moderators' Meeting

The Transitional Ministry Support Group and Elders are working on preparing Beulah's profile, based upon the many documents produced during the Transitional work. If you have any questions about any of this, please speak to Derek Evans, Andrew Glanfield or Louise Morgan.

CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY

Sunday	8th	10.30am:	Mrs Vera Ruddock Junior Church Party in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after service
		7.15pm:	Youth Fellowship
Mon.	9th	2.00pm:	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm:	Elders' Meeting
Weds.	11th	10.30am:	Mid-Week Meeting Point
		10.30am:	Church Office
Thurs.	12th	7.30pm:	Meeting with Revd. Simon Walkling
Sat.	14th	10.30am:	KIN Cake Stall, MWL
Sunday	15th	10.30am:	Revd. Cathy Gale Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after worship Family Barbecue in the Garden
		6.00pm:	Worship in the Whittaker Lounge: Richard & Sarah Edwards
		7.30pm:	Youth Fellowship
Mon.	16th	2.00pm:	Women's Fellowship
Weds.	18th	10.30am:	Mid-Week Meeting Point
		10.30am:	Church Office
Sunday	22nd	10.30am:	Revd. Gethin Rhys with Communion All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
Weds.	25th	10.30am:	Mid-Week Meeting Point
		10.30am:	Church Office
Weds.25, Thurs 26 & Fri 27:			Holiday Club
Sat.	28th	10.15am:	WRB Prayers at St Mary's Church, Whitchurch
		12.30pm:	The Wedding of Nia Williams & Chris Hockley
Sunday	29th	10.30am:	Revd. Roy Jenkins All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
<i>Paradise Run</i>			
<i>Collection</i>			



AUGUST

Sunday	5th	10.30am:	Mrs Jenny McDowell & Mrs Marion Williams All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
Sat.	11th		KIN Cake Stall
Sunday	12th	10.30am:	Ms Anne James All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
Mon.13th - Thurs. 17th:			Youth Fellowship Retreat to Caldey Island
Sunday	19th	10.30am:	Richard & Sarah Edwards, with Communion All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
Mon.	20th	7.30pm:	Extra Elders' Meeting
Sat.	25th	10.15am:	WRB Prayers at Whitchurch Methodist Church
Sunday	26th	10.30am:	Dr Alun Jones All Age Junior Church in Canolfan Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
<i>Paradise Run</i>			
<i>Collection</i>			

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	2nd	10.30am:	Revd. Sally Thomas Junior Church Coffee served in Canolfan after worship
Mon.	3rd	2.00pm:	Women's Fellowship
Weds.	5th	10.30am:	Church Office
		10.30am:	Mid-week Meeting Point
Sat.	8th	10.00am:	KIN Cake Stall



BRIGHT NOW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FOSSIL FREE CHURCHES

Is it ethical to invest in fossil fuels?

Operation Noah was set up in 2004 to encourage Christian denominations and other faiths to come together to speak out and to act in response to the climate crisis. As part of their mission they support the rapid transition to 100% clean energy and in 2013 they launched the Bright Now campaign, calling on UK Churches to divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean alternatives. Since then, several UK Churches have responded by making divestment commitments, including Quakers in Britain and the United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland.

Divestment, or disinvestment, is the opposite of investment. It means moving investments out of particular stocks, bonds or investment funds. This could be for ethical reasons, financial reasons or a combination of the two.

At the UN climate talks in Paris in December 2015, world leaders committed to keep global temperature rises 'well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels'. We know it will not be possible to meet these goals while continuing to extract and burn fossil fuels. Bright Now believes therefore that it is no longer ethical to invest in an industry that shows little sign of changing its behaviour in response to the impacts of climate change. Fossil fuel companies are also

becoming an increasingly risky investment since their business models are based on emitting five times more carbon than can safely be burned, and they therefore run the risk of being left with 'stranded assets'.

Bright Now's ultimate aim is for the national Churches in the UK to follow the lead of the World Council of Churches, the Church of Sweden and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in committing to full divestment from fossil fuels. Local churches can show their support by making a commitment to divest and then by contacting their national and regional Church investors calling on them to do the same.

It is with this in mind that we have invited James Buchanan from Operation Noah to come to Cardiff to speak to us over the Harvest weekend. He will run a workshop evening on Saturday 29th September to explain the possibilities and processes of divestment at which there will be opportunities for questions and discussion, along with light refreshments. Representatives from many churches across Cardiff will be invited, as well as MP's and councillors. The next morning James will take part in the Harvest Service, and the family barbecue which follows the service will raise money for Operation Noah. These

activities will form part of our work towards another Eco Church Award and I hope that you will find the weekend interesting and challenging.

Many issues compete for our attention, time and thought but global warming continues to require urgent and decisive action on our part. I would like to finish by quoting a paper prepared by Bright Now in which Christian theologians, scientists and environmentalists reflect on the question 'Is it ethical to invest in fossil fuels?'

"The earth is a stunning gift, conveying beauty and evoking in humanity the recognition of something greater than ourselves. It is our sanctuary, cathedral, temple, mosque - our home; but the balance of life on earth is threatened by climate change ... Rising temperatures and sea levels, punishing storms, droughts and floods will displace and endanger billions of people. Many will lose their lives. Many others, particularly the poorest, will lose all they have ...

To play a full part in covenant with God, the Church must therefore examine its financial arrangements and ensure that its investments do not endanger creation."

Eileen Newington

JUNIOR CHURCH LEADER OPPORTUNITY

"The Seniors Department of Junior Church are looking for an extra leader for the next 12 months. Keirsten is lucky enough to be travelling with Steve as he takes a sabbatical so will not be available frequently. Leaders tend to be 'on duty' for about one month in three. If you are interested in helping our 11+ age group explore faith-related issues in a fun, relaxed and friendly environment, this is an excellent opportunity to 'dip your toe in the water'. Please speak to Marion, Denise or Elaine - you will usually find us in the back room upstairs on a Sunday morning."

Editorial Team

Colin Grimes,

and

Huw Morgan,

E-Mail :

crossroads@hotmail.co.uk

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> In memory of
July						
8th	am	Mike Warsop	Helen Harries	Karen Sampson & Kate Stanbury	Lorraine Larcombe	Geoff & Sylvia Griffiths
15th	am	Huw Morgan	Jenny McDowell	Kaye Mundy & Mary Prosser	Lynne Davies	Mary Edwards In memory of Phillip
	pm		Jenny McDowell			
22nd	am	Catherine Tyler	Nigel Barwise	Harley Jones & Keirsten Eales	Pat Agland	Pat & Cyril Cazenave
29th	am	Keith Jones	Mary Edwards	Mary Warsop & Mike Warsop	Pat Ruddock	Ruth Williams Nia & Chris' wedding
August						
5th	am	Ian Budding	Tony Webb	Peter Stevenson & Richard Sweetnam	Peter Ferdinando	Barbara & John Rhys
12th	am	Tony Webb	Viv Jones	Ann Grimes & Barbara Clift	Perter Stevenson	Natalie & Rod Samuel
19th	am	Colin Grimes	Mary Bidnell	Betty Evans & Chris Phelps	Richard Sweetnam	Naomi & Martin Williams
26th	am	Harley Jones	Eleri John	Bev Hampson & Diane Burton	Ruth Williams	Heather & Colin Bishop
September						
2nd	am	Mike Warsop	Audrey Budding	Denise Dickman & Pam Penny	Trix Pryce	Huw & Louise Morgan
9th	am	Huw Morgan	Liz Kidd	Christine Pugh & Duncan Pugh	Vera Ruddock	Mike & Mary Warsop
16th	am	Catherine Tyler	Ann Brown	Eleanor Mills & Frank Kinsey	Kate Hampson	Betty Hulston
23rd	am	Keith Jones	Anne James	Giles Ballisat & Philippa Ballisat	James Hall	Heather & Colin Bishop
30th	am	Ian Budding	Anne Wilkes	Harley Jones & Kate Stanbury	Huw Morgan	tba

Forthcoming Social Events

The Social Team have planned the following events over the next few months.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Sunday 12th August (after morning worship) - **Brecon Mountain Centre** - please bring your own picnic. If you do not want to walk you will be able to sit rest and chat and enjoy lots of cups of tea from the Mountain Centre cafe.

August - The **Annual Skittles Evening** - details to follow.

Saturday 1st September - **Overnight trip to Liverpool.**

Saturday 3rd November - **Quiz Night.**

Friday 14th December - **Christmas Meal** at Whitchurch Golf Club. More details to follow.

2019 - New Year's Day Brunch.

Friday 5th January - **Family New Year Party** at the Canolfan.

Also, tickets have been reserved at the **Millennium Centre** for the following shows:-

Jersey Boys – 16th January 2019 at 7.30pm - ticket price £45.

Calendar Girls the Musical – 8th May 2019 at 7.30pm - tickets £25.50.

Kinky Boots - 24th July 2019 at 7.30pm - ticket price £44.50.

There will be a sign up list in the church porch with payment dates listed.

We hope you will join us for some or all the activities planned!!

The Social Team x

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **September 2018** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 19th August 2018** and **Huw** will be editing.