



Walking The Way - Living the Life of Jesus Today

“For unto us a child is born”

Isaiah 9, 6

If I ask the question “what is the musical work that every professional singer has in their repertoire” the answer would come back loud and clear - Handel’s “Messiah.” Christmas now approaches and it is “Messiah” time again – Beulah has just had its own - and the copies come off the bookshelves and “Every valley shall be exalted!”

German born Handel has to be one of the most respected and famous of all immigrants to the UK - settling in London in 1712 and becoming a citizen in 1727. At that time the London audience were very keen on Italian style opera and Handel, with his musical/theatrical genius plus a capacity for hard work, actually composed 42 such operas for this market!

Eventually opera started to become less popular and Handel found himself losing money. This situation made him look at, and develop a new art form - the oratorio - a sacred drama but in a concert version. There were no grand theatrical gestures, no set or costumes. The story itself would be sufficient. There were usually four soloists – standing still - plus a chorus who were given a more substantial role than in his operas and a small orchestra.

Handel, a regular church attendee, knew his Bible. So when his friend Charles Jennens, suggested an oratorio based on the subject of the Messiah, Handel became very enthusiastic. For the “Messiah” libretto Jennens juxtaposed the Old and the New Testament using King James Bible and Psalms from the Common Book of Prayer. For instance “I know that my Redeemer Liveth” takes text from the book of Job and 1 Corinthians.


Handel unbelievably wrote the score of “Messiah” in less than a month! It was as if all his previous compositions were leading towards this great masterpiece.

Wary of giving “Messiah” its first outing in London, Handel seized the opportunity that an invitation to Dublin gave him to take the oratorio there for its first very successful performance in April 1742.

“Messiah” is in three distinct parts.

Part One focuses on the coming of the Messiah. “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, GOD WITH US!” and that Mary should “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.” The chorus

(Continued on page 3)



BEULAH

CROSSROADS

***December
2018***

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





CHURCH NOTES



As we approach the busiest time in the church calendar, I hope that we will be able to find time to slow down and reflect a little on what the season of Advent means to us. A small group looked at different ways of taking us through Advent, and a theme has emerged from the discussions; this will be 'Conversations' and each Sunday of Advent will explore a different set of conversations between various characters. Alongside this, some Advent art by Jo Jones will appear on Canolfan wall and we look forward to the enrichment to our Advent journeys that this will no doubt bring.

On Advent Sunday we will light the first of our Advent candles, in a service led by three members of this small group, and the evening service will be a reflective communion service with music and readings, where we will be joined not just by friends from Bethany and All Saints, but also by local Methodist friends.

We look forward to many opportunities to think and reflect, as well as to sing and rejoice at Christ's birth, including our Light for our Loss service on December 9th, a church family baptism, mid night communion, and of course, the services led by children and young people, before the celebration of Christmas Day itself. We are grateful to all those who will make all these services possible, many of whom are from within the congregation.

It is good to acknowledge some important signs that affirm the light and life of Beulah. It was a delight to welcome the family and friends of little Amelia Cottrell for her baptism at the end of October – and we have at least two more baptisms and a blessing in the coming months. On November 18 it was a great joy to welcome four people into membership of the church, all of whom are already active and committed in our congregation: Karen Sampson, Richard Sweetnam and Naomi and Martin Williams. We will also have the privilege of welcoming another three in

December – and we particularly thank the Revd. Gethin Rhys who has led preparation sessions for all these people.

We recently held our nomination process to call new elders for 2019. I would like to offer sincere thanks to our retiring elders: Anne Wilkes, Marianne and Nigel Barwise and Mary Edwards. They have been unstinting in both their pastoral work and contributions to meetings and duties through what has been a challenging time over the past few years as we grapple with new ways of being church together – they deserve a little rest now! As an eldership we are delighted that Ruth Williams has accepted the nomination, and will be inducted on January 13. As we were unable to fill all the vacancies this time, elders and the Pastoral Committee are considering ways to ensure that the pastoral work of the church is still covered effectively.



FAMILY NEWS

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Mr Gwynfor Hughes this month. Together with his late wife, Ann, Gwynfor was a faithful member of Beulah for many decades, and we send our condolences to Tessa, Rhys and all the family at this sad time.

Our deepest sympathies are also with Grace Weaver, whose younger daughter, Moira, has recently died. We remember Grace and all her family in prayer.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the Coleman family following

the death of Chris's mother in November.

Several members and friends have needed treatment in recent weeks, and we hope they will soon be on the road to recovery. These include Rachel Brewer, Pat Cazenave and Rubina Lewis – we send them, and all who are experiencing difficulties, our good wishes. Others have received better news and we send them all our best wishes too. It is good to see Kevin Williams out and about again, and also to know that Ron Leech is recovering well from his surgery.

We are also pleased to hear of the births of two babies to families connected with us: we send many congratulations to Elin and Martin James whose daughter, Angharad has given birth to a baby son, Caleb Gwyn. Donna and James Nunn have also had a baby boy and we are delighted that all is well for Donna and baby Ethan James.

Special wishes are sent to Alys James on her 18th birthday, which she celebrated recently.

And – congratulations to David Newington whose indie-pop band, Boy Azooga, has been awarded The Welsh Music Prize, 2018, for their album '1, 2, Kung Fu'.

Finally, we send Christmas greetings to all members and friends, hoping that all may know something of the joy and peace that the coming of the Christ child brings to the world.

Every blessing,
Louise

Church Secretary:
Mrs. Louise Morgan,

Church Treasurer:
Mrs. Barbara Rhys,

"For unto us a child is born"

Isaiah 9, 6

(Continued from front page)

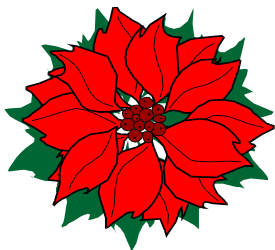
finally tells us "His yoke is easy and his burthen is light"

Part Two has a striking change of mood as we meditate on Christ's Passion, Resurrection and Ascension. The music is more jagged, sombre and intense. "He was despised and rejected of men." But it is the triumphant Hallelujah chorus which finishes Part Two.

Part Three opens with a personal declaration of faith, "I know that my Redeemer Liveth". However for the believer, sin and death are conquered with a Hymn of Thanksgiving "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and has redeemed us to God by His blood."

This work, which since its composition has occupied an unrivalled place in the hearts and minds of Christians everywhere, concludes with the affirmative statement Amen. So be it!

Trix Pryce



Thank You

Martin and Elin would like to say a big thank you for the beautiful flowers received from the Beulah family on the birth of our first grandchild. Caleb Gwyn was born on 18/10/18, a son to our daughter Angharad. Llawer o ddiolch.

Elin James.

**Concerts at the Crossroads
Lunchtime Recital**

Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 1.05pm

**A group of opera students from the RWCMD
with Nicola Rose – piano**

Songs and Arias

This concert has now become an annual event and has proved most popular. Four opera students from the RWCMD plus their accompanist Nicola Rose will come and perform a programme of songs and arias. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the upcoming opera singers of the future. It is so rewarding to hear that some of the singers from previous years have gone on to sing in major opera houses and have significant careers.

Tickets £5 on the door

Another date for your diary

**Wednesday 27th February at 1.05pm
Tomos Xerri – harp and Claire Wickes - flute**



**Simon and George's
Winter Warmer!**

A date for your diary!

Following the morning service
on Sunday, 3rd February, 2019,
please come and join us for

a delicious soup and sandwich lunch in the Canolfan.

This is being held to raise money for
the World Scout Jamboree which we are attending
in West Virginia, U.S.A., in July/August 2019.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Simon and George



KIN (Kindred in Need)

Together we care and together we share

'Be A Peacemaker' in the Church: Christian Aid's festive fundraising appeal highlighting families affected by conflict across the world. Help build 'peace on earth' this Christmas and help us raise funds for work with children and adults who are suffering from trauma, homelessness, poverty and other effects of war and violence.

Beulah Bazaar:
Sat 1 December
10.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.

We will be raising money for **Save the Children Fund**
PLEASE JOIN US!!

We will be glad of your help with this and there will be sign up lists nearer the time. We will also be very grateful for gifts of cakes, preserves, toiletries, jewellery, toys, bottles and bric-a-brac. Please bring cakes at 9.30am on the Saturday morning; other items can be brought to the Canolfan anytime between 2.00pm and 5.00pm on Friday 30th November. Thank you.

Christmas Food/Chocolates:
Sat 8th December

We would be grateful to once again receive your gifts for families who are supported by the Family Intervention Support Services and Cardiff Children Services (no alcohol please). Please bring your gifts to the Church on Sunday 8th December or hand them to Ann Grimes.

Carol Singing:
19-22 December

We will be singing around the village in aid of **Barnardos Cymru**. We will be joined by members from Bethany and All Saints.

Kin Christmas Coffee morning:
Sat 22 December
10.20am - 12 noon

This will be held in the Canolfan and there is a warm invitation to everyone to come along at 10.30am or after the carol singing outside the Whittaker Lounge. We will be raising funds for **MIND**.

Many thanks to Chris Phelps for the **Beulah Christmas Card** which will be raising money for **The Samaritans** this year. The card will be available for signing at the front of the church.

Many thanks, KIN



Terracycling in the Canolfan

You may have noticed a Terracycling collection bin in the Canolfan foyer. Here is some information sent by Naomi England from Rhiwbina Against Plastic explaining the scheme and how we can use it. Naomi will have a table at the Beulah Bazaar, so please do speak to her to find out more.

Rhiwbina Against Plastic has launched a recycling scheme for hard-to-recycle plastics. Whilst it is vitally important that we all try to reduce the amount of single-use-plastic that we use, the new scheme will help to reduce waste going to incineration and hopefully raise awareness of the types of plastic that are not recycled by the council. The scheme is run by an international company called Terracycle. They are funded by manufacturers who produce hard-to-recycle waste (for example McVities and Garnier) and in turn, Terracycle pay a reward to those who collect the waste for them.

In Rhiwbina there are collection points in the Canolfan, the library, Hoel Llanishen Fach Primary and all three Girl Guiding centres. Waste collected includes biscuit wrappers, pens and wipe packets; and more specialist products such as Tassimo coffee pod discs and baby food pouches.

Rhiwbina Against Plastic will be ensuring all money generated is given to Rhiwbina charities. The first to benefit will be Friends of Rhiwbina Library and the Grafton Terrace Girl Guide Project which aims to improve their dated meeting hall.

For a full list of items that are collected, please visit Terracycle.co.uk, Facebook @RhiwbinaAgainstPlastic or see the abridged list of items in the Canolfan / Library. Please note that only the items listed are collected and general hard-to-recycle plastic packaging is not.

Breaking the Barriers ... THANK YOU everyone!

Christian Aid's Breaking the Barriers programme aims to increase rural women's jobs and income in the sustainable energy sector, improve working and living conditions, promote gender equality and strengthen women's social status.

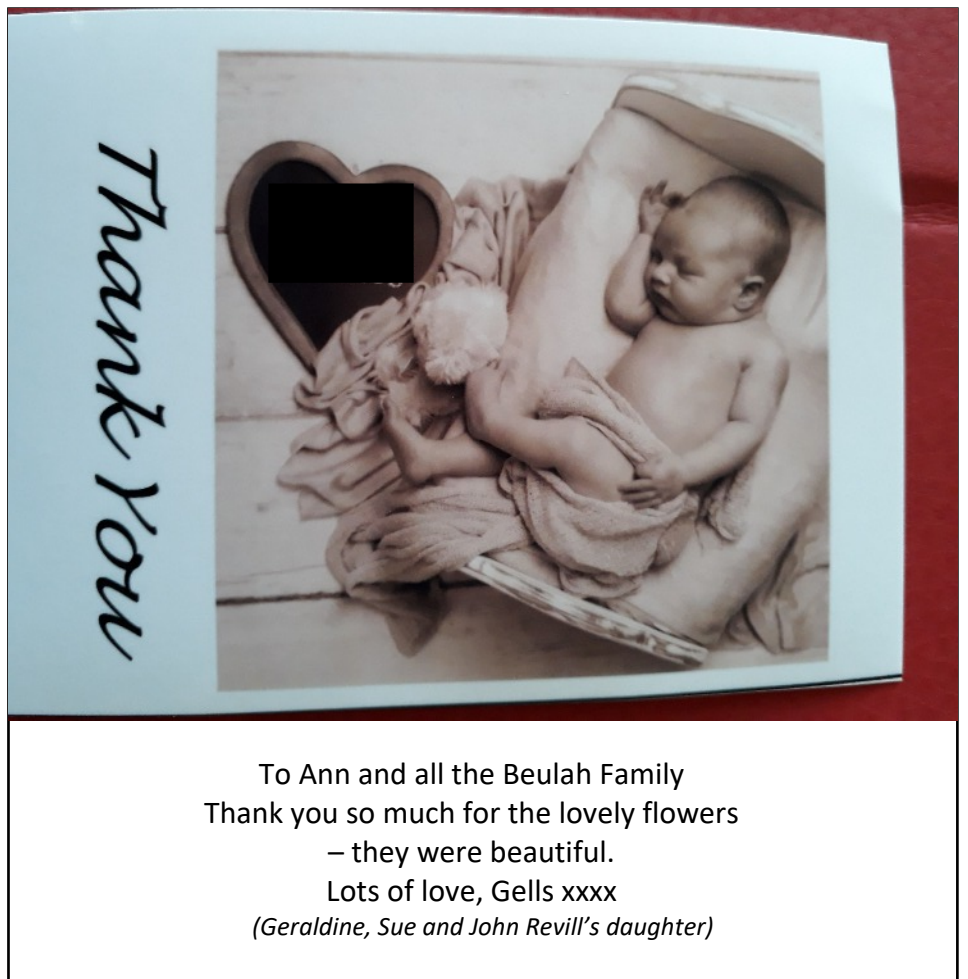
It is a practical example of the call for a shift in energy investment from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The project will work to enhance awareness of sustainable energy and to increase access to energy in rural communities in Ethiopia, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Honduras. Matched funding from the EU means that each £1 raised will be worth £5!

Thank you to Kaye Mundy for donating the £198 raised on a trip to Bath towards this project.

Also, a big thank you to the Cheer family and all the performers who contributed to the Community Messiah last week. Many people thoroughly enjoyed both taking part in and listening to the performance and the evening raised £408.30.

These two events (plus a little extra accumulated money) raised a total of £651.39 for Breaking the Barriers.

This means, with the matched funding, we have raised a magnificent £3,256.95



Christmas Day at Beulah

This will be the 47th year that Beulah has organised a Christmas Day Lunch and Tea for those who would otherwise be on their own on that day. Some of these friends like to come along to the morning service at 10.45am and others join us later for coffee and lunch. For those who are housebound meals will be delivered. The format this year will be the same as last year.

Lunch is served at approximately 1.00pm in the Leaver Room and our guests will remain upstairs for the rest of their time with us. There will be some musical entertainment and they will also be served tea and 'nice' biscuits whilst listening to the Queen's speech at 3.00pm. Our friends will leave around 3.30pm armed with a 'goodie' bag containing tea, biscuits, a tin of fruit, soap, fresh fruit, soup, sweets, mince pies, Christmas cake

and a card from our children.

None of this could happen without a lot of help from a lot of people.

Slips will be available in the Church porch from **Sunday 3 December** listing the help that is needed such as: collecting guests before and after the morning service, returning them to their homes at 3.30pm; delivering lunches to the housebound at 1.00pm, help with coffee after church and talk to the guests, help to clear away and wash up after lunch and tea; and help entertain during the afternoon. We recognise that Christmas Day is a very special one to share with the family and we also try to make it special for our guests.

However, if you can spare just an hour out of the day to help in some way please do fill in one of the slips and hand to Barbara Rhys as

soon convenient. Thank you.

Also, to enable us to buy food and gifts we do need donations of money and Janet Richards will be in the porch every Sunday morning after the service from **2 December** onwards to accept your contributions. Can we encourage you to please gift aid your donations, and Janet will have envelopes available. If you have already signed up for gift aid through Beulah you just need to put on your name, the date and sign it. Otherwise, please complete your address as well. Many thanks.

Don't forget that this is also a day for Beulah friends. Please don't stay at home on your own, come and join us, you will be very welcome. If you want to know more, please have a word with Barbara Rhys or Gaynor Rees.

The Christmas Day Team



Beulah Family Christmas Meal

Don't miss out on a good night out!! If you haven't already added your name to the list for the Christmas Meal on Friday 14th December, don't despair, it may not be too late!! The list may not be in the church porch, but if you contact Ann or Colin, no later than Sunday 9th December, we may be able to squeeze you in.

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **February 2019** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 20th January** and **Huw** will be editing.

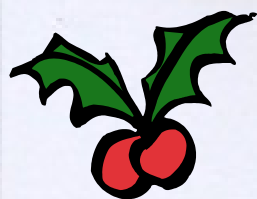
A Christmas Celebration in Words and Music

The Sine Nomine Singers

Conductors:
Richard Jenkins
& Julia Silezin

Guest Recorder Group
**The St.Catoc
Consort**

Wednesday 19th
December 1.05pm
Beulah Church
Rhiwbina



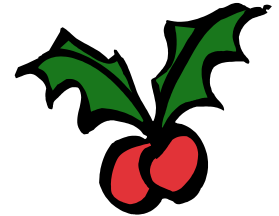
Retiring collection for the Motor Neurone Disease Association

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Sat	1st	10.00am	Beulah Bazaar
Sun	2nd	10.30am	Worship Team
			Junior Church
		6.00pm	Joint Communion Service: Towards the end of the Day
			Canolfan (rehearsal from 5.00pm)
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon	3rd	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	5th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Thurs	6th	7.30pm	Beulah Players Show – Bless 'em All
Fri	7th	3.15pm	Youth Drop-In
		7.30pm	Beulah Players Show – Bless 'em All
Sat	8th	10.00am	Kin Cake Stall – Margaret Whittaker Lounge
Sun	9th	10.30am	Revd Ken Graham: Baptism of Ruby Louise Williams
			Junior Church
			<i>Please bring Christmas Food and Chocolates</i>
		6.00pm	Light for our Loss: Revd. Roger Bidnell
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon	10th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	12th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Fri	14th	7.00pm	Church Family Christmas Meal – Whitchurch Golf Club
Sat	15th		Westonbirt Arboretum visit
Sun	16th	10.30am	Revd James Hall with Communion and reception of new Members
			Junior Church
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Wed	19th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
		1.05pm	Sine Nomine Concert
		7.00pm	Carol singing – Refreshments Beulah
Thurs	20th	7.00pm	Carol singing – Refreshments All Saints
Fri	21st	3.15pm	Youth Drop-in
		7.00pm	Carol singing – Refreshments Bethany
Sat	22nd	10.15am	Carol singing – outside Margaret Whittaker Lounge
		10.30am	KIN Christmas Coffee Morning
Sun	23rd	10.30am	Seniors and Youth Fellowship:
			Family Worship
		6.00pm	Carol Service
Mon	24th	5.00pm	Blessing the Crib
		11.15pm	Midnight Communion Revd Roger Bidnell
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Tues	25th	10.45am	Christmas Day Worship – Mr Geraint Richards
Sat	29th	10.15am	WRB Prayers – Rhiwbina Baptist Church
Sun	30th	10.30am	Family Worship – Richard and Sarah Edwards
			Paradise Run collection



CHURCH CALENDAR (continued)

2019

JANUARY

Tues	1st	10.00am	New Year's Day Brunch
Wed	2nd	10.30am	Mid Week Meeting Point
Sat	5th	6.30pm	Church Family Party
Sun	6th	10.30am	Dr Alun Jones
			Junior Church
		6.00pm	United Communion Bethany Baptist Church
Mon	7th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	9th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid-Week Meeting Point
Sat	12th	10.00am	KIN Cake Stall
Sun	13th	10.30am	Revd Stephen Best, Family Service, Communion and Induction of new Elders
		12.00 midday	Church Family Lunch
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon	14th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	16th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid Week Meeting Point
Sun	20th	10.30am	Joint Service with Bethany – Beulah
			Junior Church
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon	21st	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Tues	22nd	7.00pm	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, All Saints
Wed	23rd	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid Week Meeting Point
Thurs	24th	10.00am	Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Bethany
Sat	26th	10.15am	WRB Prayers Bethany
Sun	27th	10.30am	Mr Geraint Richards
			Junior Church
			Paradise Run Collection
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship
Mon	28th	2.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	30th	10.30am	Church Office
		10.30am	Mid Week Meeting Point
		1.05pm	Beulah Concert – RWCMD Opera students Nicki Rose piano

FEBRUARY

Sun	3rd	10.30am	Revd. Gethin Rhys
		12.00 midday	Lunch for Scout Jamboree
		6.00pm	United Communion at All Saints
		7.15pm	Youth Fellowship



**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>
December						
2nd	am	Tony Webb	Liz Kidd	Helen Harries & Barbara Clift	Cathy Wales	Elin James
	pm			Ecumenical Communion Service at Beulah		
9th	am	Colin Grimes	Nigel Barwise	Betty Evans & Eleanor Mills	Chris Phelps	Alan Wilson
	pm					
16th	am	Harley Jones	Trix Pryce	Chris Phelps & Diane Burton	Colin Grimes	Nick & Tanya Hampson
23rd	am	Mike Warsop	Viv Jones	Denise Dickman & Pam Penny	Derek Evans	Lesley & Mary Richards
	pm					
24th	pm		Anne James		Diane Burton	
Christmas Eve						
25th	am		Ruth Williams	Duncan & Christine Pugh	Elaine Edwards	
Christmas Day						
30th	am	Huw Morgan	Nesta Thomas	Frank Kinsey & Harley Jones	Eleanor Mills	Gill Grivas & Angela Holliday
2019						
January						
6th	am	Catherine Tyler	Mary Bidnell	Giles and Philippa Ballisat	Eleri John	TBA
	pm			Ecumenical Communion Service at Bethany Baptist		
13th	am	Keith Jones	Lynne Davies	Kate Stanbury and Mair Haywood	Andy Wales	
20th	am	Ian Budding	Derek Evans	Kaye Mundy & Karen Sampson	Heather Bishop	
27th	am	Tony Webb	Fleur Richards	Jill & Peter Ferdinando	Helen Harries	
February						
3rd	am	Colin Grimes	Elaine Edwards	Audrey Budding & Barbara Clift	Richard Sweetnam	
	pm			Ecumenical Communion Service at All Saints		
10th	am	Harley Jones	Gaynor Rees	John Prosser & Keirsten Eales	Huw Morgan	
17th	am	Mike Warsop	Andrew Glanfield	Mary Warsop & Mike Warsop	Pat Ruddock	
24th	am	Huw Morgan	Ruth Williams	Pat Agland & Fiona Liddell	Trix Pryce	



Samaritans

This year gifts given through Beulah's Christmas card are going to Cardiff Samaritans, and while the name Samaritans is generally well known I thought that a little local background might be appreciated.

The first call to Samaritans was made in 1953, with the Cardiff Branch opening in 1965.

Staffed by volunteers, Samaritans provides a safe space for people who are distressed, whether suicidal or not, to explore their feelings, in confidence, without being judged or given advice. "The point is to

give people the time and support to find what they really want to do". Primary concerns raised by callers were based on loneliness and isolation, family, mental health problems, physical health and illness and relationship problems

Cardiff Samaritans has nearly 100 volunteers, who in the last year answered nearly 30,000 calls, and responded to over 2,500 texts and 2,000 emails.

Volunteers also train and support "listeners" in Cardiff Prison, go into schools, have a growing relationship with Network Rail, and can often be found at public events.

Across Wales there are 500 listening volunteers and a further 101 support volunteers answering one call every 3 minutes; that's nearly 177,000 a year.

After many years based in Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff Samaritans are in the process of moving to more suitable premises in Ely, 62 Cowbridge Road West.

Samaritans have a free number, 116123, and can be contacted 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Their email address is jo@samaritans.org

Roger Bidnell