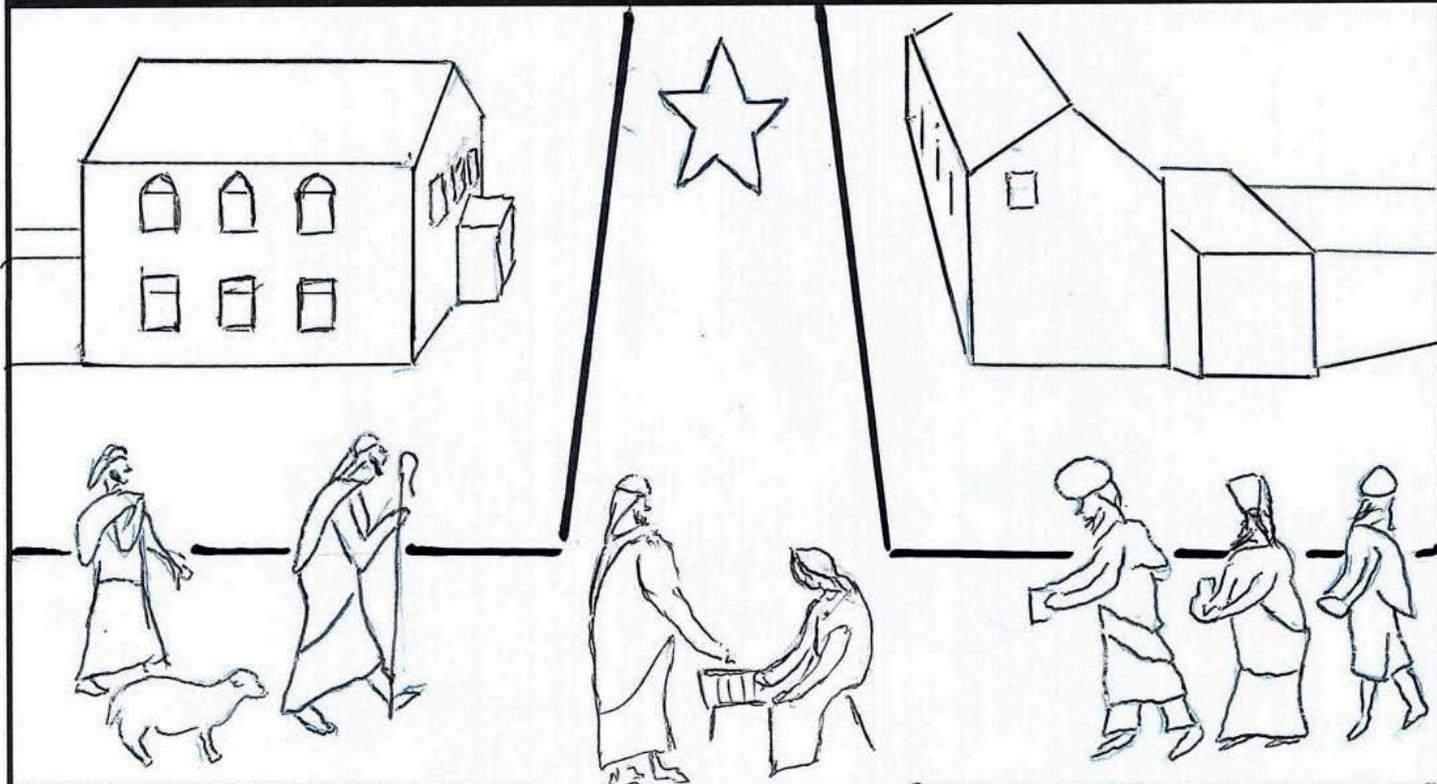


CHRISTMAS CROSSROADS

December 2020



*Let us now
go even unto
Bethlehem
and see this
thing which
is come to
pass*



*We have seen
his star in
the east and
are come to
worship him*

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

**Part of the United
Reformed Church
Cardiff & Penarth
Pastorate**

Letter from The Manse

(Continued from page 2)

phone call of a friend, reaching out to someone who has been bereaved. The incarnation - the Word made flesh - the centre of our Christmas celebrations - means God is still alive and active in the world.

After Annunciation

by M. L'Engle

*This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.*

*Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.*

Perhaps in this crazy time, there is more room for us to see God, for God continues to be present today, in people, in love, in service. If we pause our worrying about how we will celebrate Christmas, perhaps we will hear God in the voice of the one who says they are happy to have a quiet, simple gathering around manger and table - with the added bonus of a video caller miles away sharing their meal as we share our meal, opening their presents with us on the call, telling stories of years past and planning for years to come.

Yours in Christ,

Martha and David



CHURCH NOTES

Christmas seemed a long way off however we are now starting a new Christian Year. Advent is beginning and we are starting to meet up again in person. Last year we were thinking about our Advent 'Hopes and Dreams' wondering what uncertainties we would face. This was definitely not anticipated. We have had to adapt to new ways through the year with many challenges along the way.



The many services and events we usually hold throughout this time are being organised in various ways, in person, on Zoom, and live streaming. More details will follow. Thank you to everyone who is involved in the planning as there is a great amount of work taking place and it is very much appreciated.

Thank you to those involved and those who attended the recent Garden Worship and communion service. We didn't have to cancel, although waterproofs were required, and the shelter remained in place. Thank you to those who volunteered to be stewards and to David for a very thoughtful service. As we are now planning indoor worship services too, we will require some more volunteers. If you would be willing to steward at a service, and your personal risk allows, please do let me know.

Last week our Outdoor Church service also successfully took place in the local park with many families attending. If you missed it then there is another planned for the 15th.

Best wishes to everyone for Christmas and New Year and thoughts and prayers to those who have been unwell or in hospital recently. It has been some time since we have all been able to be together and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Good Wishes,

Anne

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Beulah family for the love and care shown to us during Vera's illness and following her death last month. Despite no hugs and limited visits, we were supported and loved in so many other ways. Vera's funeral was held on a bright, sunny winter's day and, although we weren't in Beulah, Beulah was with us.

With love, John, Kevin, Marion & all the family.

Contact

Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes,

Revd. David Dean,

Email: ministers@beulahurc.org.uk



Church Secretary: Anne Wilkes, Email: secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer: Barbara Rhys, Email: treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Office: Administrator - Helen White, Email: admin@beulahurc.org.uk

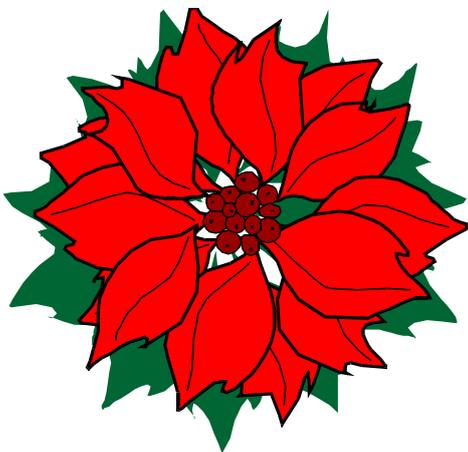
THANK YOU

My porch and I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has delivered food, toiletries, shoe boxes etc to my house. I don't know who you are, but food items have magically appeared. So just to let you know where it goes - over Harvest I have given carrier bags of socks/underwear/toiletries to Karen for Huggard Centre, Jenny for Space4U, Denise for Romania, 30 carrier bags full of food items to Foodbank and I gave a carrier bag of toiletries to Roland McDonald House - sorry I know we weren't collecting for them, but they put out an appeal for toiletries for families who arrive at the House, and I thought you wouldn't mind helping out.

Can I also say a big thank you to Eleanor Mills and Julie Jones for taking the food to foodbank - it helps so much. I'll total up how much we gave next month. So my porch says thank you - and so do I - and we are happy to continue collecting.

Many thanks

Eleri



FRONT COVER

You may be asking yourselves: 'why has our front cover changed this month?'

Well, early in November, a large envelope arrived in the post, which contained the following letter and some artwork 'from another time!':

Dinas Powys

6th Nov 2020

*The Editors,
Beulah Crossroads.*

Dear Sirs,

Further to my winning design & title of "Beulah Crossroads" (1982), I humbly submit for your consideration, a cover for this December's edition of Crossroads.

I accept that "the Editor's decision is final."

If you decide to use it, I will be pleased to pay for the extra cost.

*Yours faithfully,
Haydn*

Many of you who know Dr. Haydn Jones, will recognise the 'formal' nature of his letter, and his self-effacing style, and some may even remember the events that led up to a change for Beulah's monthly newsletter. The front cover of the newsletter has gone through a number of changes over the decades, but it was Dr. Haydn Jones, who broke the mould by providing a front cover which included some eye-catching artwork, and the meaningful title, "Crossroads."

With Beulah located at the centre of the village, at the CROSS-roads, it was an appropriate name for our monthly newsletter and it has stuck. So, thank you, Haydn, for your creativity, and for reminding us of a little bit of history at Beulah.

Colin.

Christmas Opportunities

A reminder that we are putting together a video Lessons and Carols. We would love your creative ideas. If you are inspired to send a picture, or create video of, for one of the lessons, please get in touch with Andrew Wilson-Dickson

Christmas Stars

If you are willing to help deliver stars to people in the pastorate, please let me know. If you need me to collect stars you are making from you, also let me know. Thanks for all your inspiring ideas.



Martha

WHITCHURCH, RHIWBINA & BIRCHGROVE WORSHIP

DURING THIS TIME OF COVID 2020

Everyone IS INVITED to join Friends
from thirteen local Churches
in VIRTUAL WORSHIP

**10.15am – 10.45am
19th DECEMBER 2020**

led by
RHIWBINA BAPTIST CHURCH

30th JANUARY 2021

led by
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD**



A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who provided shoe boxes, knitted items, and money for the Shoebox Appeal.

We delivered 55 boxes to the collection point at St. Thomases Church this year.

Many thanks,
Ann and Colin.

And God said "Take care of . . ."

One another

Exploring how to take care of creation and our global neighbours through engagement within churches, communities and the wider world with:

Cynan Llwyd
(Christian Aid Wales)



Wednesday 2nd December 2020

7:30pm – 9:00pm

email: jason.askew.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

to register and obtain the ZOOM link

The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales

Journeying together as Eco Church



Wednesday Prayers

Just in case you were waiting for a link, the Wednesday Evening Prayers, on Zoom, have finished.

Beulah
United Reformed Church

Light for our Loss



We light a candle
to cherish those we love
who are lost to us
through death.

A Candle Lit
Carol Service

Sunday 6th December 2020

Light for Our Loss Service 6th December

If you would like to attend this service please book your place by contacting:

admin@beulahurc.org.uk

or

secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

by 1st December 2020 with your name and contact phone number.

This is a simple reflective service, with some readings and music and the opportunity to light a candle in memory of those we have lost. This year it has been difficult to gather in church and, due to current government restrictions, there will not be any singing.

It is likely there will be 2 services, one at 6.00pm and the second at 7.30pm, and further information will be confirmed with you by the 4th December.

This service will also be live on Beulah URC Facebook for those that are unable to attend in person.

Need an Idea for Christmas Presents?

If you're thinking of buying Christmas presents for family and friends, but not sure what to get. Here is the answer to your prayers! Beulah's "Lockdown Recipe Book" will be available for purchase very soon, possibly by the time you're reading this.

The Recipe Book is filled with the much-loved recipes of members and friends of Beulah, with ideas for each meal of the day, and a wonderful range of cakes to bake.

Massive thanks must go to Helen White, for her hard work in preparing the book layout for printing, whilst Ann and I helped out by helping with the proof reading.

The price of this long awaited 'must-have' addition to the kitchen bookshelf is a very reasonable £5. However, as this was the brainchild of Elaine (who didn't cook or bake!!), and Ann has been very much the driving force behind getting it produced, we would suggest an additional donation of £2.50 towards the British Heart Foundation, in Elaine's memory.

Copies will be available from Ann Grimes, Eleri John and Barbara Rhys. Just call one of them on the phone before you knock the door, to ensure they have enough copies in stock for your needs!

Colin



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

KIN (Kindred in Need)
Together we care and together we share

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING
for all the family



Saturday 19th December
at 10.30am on Zoom



This year the Christmas Coffee Morning will move online for the first time – it will be a bit different, but there will still be plenty of festive entertainment with music, conversation, carols, mince pies, cake and coffee (bring your own!), fellowship and fun.

We'll be raising money for ShelterBox
and you can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Eileen-Newington>

When you make a donation, you will be allocated a ticket(s) for our Christmas Raffle. NB Please add your name and, on this occasion, do not Gift Aid your donation

Please join us for coffee ...
all are very welcome

There will be a mixture of live music and recorded music, as well as carols and Christmas songs for everyone to join in with. The Cheer family would love to hear from anyone who'd be willing to contribute a short musical item (sung or played) or perhaps something else Christmassy – maybe a poem or a joke? The coffee morning is a fun and informal event, and neither age (high or low) nor experience (modest or extensive) should prevent anyone from joining in!



Please get in touch with Brenda and John

**CHRISTMAS
HAMPER
RAFFLE**
in aid of
ShelterBox

Christmas Hampers for adults and children ... only £2.00 a ticket!

Donate to our **Christmas Coffee Morning** and you will automatically be allocated the correct number of raffle tickets.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Eileen-Newington>

Please make your donation by 12 noon on Friday 18th December to be included in the raffle draw at our coffee morning.

Make sure you add your name on the JustGiving page and, on this occasion, please do not Gift Aid your donation.

OR ...

You may prefer to ask whoever delivers your Crossroads to place your donation for you. Just give them the cash for the number of tickets you would like. They will kindly do the rest ... and you'll be in the draw with everyone else!

Any questions, please phone Eileen
(See next page for pictures of the wonderful prizes available)

THANKS

It is the time of year again when we need to thank our kind volunteer drivers for transporting us to Beulah for morning service, even if it was only for three months owing to the 'virus'. Nevertheless, we are truly grateful. They are: Marianne and Nigel Barwise, Giles Ballisat, Audrey and Ian Budding, Colin and Ann Grimes, Harley Jones, Keith Jones, Huw Morgan, Bill Sampson, Catherine Tyler, Michael Warsop and Tony Webb. We wish you and your families every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

I am sure that Joan Ridley would not have imagined that her generous idea would last over 50 years. In lieu of flowers for her husband, Bob David's funeral, she suggested fund raising for a minibus to collect our 'old dears' for Sunday evening worship. The Youth Club, Youth Fellowship and members of the Church held

coffee mornings, jumble sales, did gardening for members, ran or walked 'Marathons' around Roath Park Lake, collected Green Shield Stamps, and eventually a second hand minibus was purchased. We no longer have a minibus, but all the kind people mentioned above ensure that Joan's vision has continued. Amazingly, three of the original Youth Club are amongst our current drivers: Colin, Huw and Keith, and even more amazing - Joan is a passenger!! Thank you, Joan, and all the drivers who through the years have ensured our presence in Beulah.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the passing of so many of our friends this year and are a little comforted to know that our Ministers were 'there for them' when we could not. Thank you Martha and David. They were Gwladys Brown (an early Minibus traveller), Margaret Johns, Mary Jones, Sally Jones, Denie Leech,

Margaret Maynard, Grace Weaver and Ben Wilson. We will always remember them.

Heather Coles, Betty Hulston, Bronwen James, Rubina Lewis, Joyce Matthias, Joan Ridley, and Elinor Ludlow.

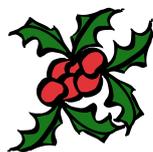
On a personal note, I would like to thank Martha and David for the splendid Sunday Zoom and MixCloud services, and all those who have taken part. It has been good to see so many faces and, to talk to folk I have never met before. You have kept us all together and we thank you for that. May you both have a Blessed Christmas and a Happier New year.

Christmas Greetings and a Good New Year to all my Beulah family.

With Love,

Elinor

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PRIZES (see page 7)



BEULAH TOTS

As many of you know, Beulah Tots is a group for little people and their parents/ grandparents/ child minders which normally meets every Tuesday morning in term time in the Canolfan between 9.30 and 11.00am. It is an extremely popular, busy and lively group and there is equipment on site.

Unfortunately, the two ladies who have been running it have now returned to teaching as their children are older and they are having difficulty finding anyone to take over

(Continued on p.9)

Preparations are underway...

... for a festive and socially distanced Christmas with our Beulah children and young people.

Our youngest children are already working on their contributions to our Christmas Eve Blessing the crib zoom service. Some filming will be taking place in the Canolfan garden over the next few weeks.

Older children and young people are working on a script for the pastorate zoom service on December 20th. Parts are being allocated and there is scope for others to be involved in doing readings (either on or off camera), doing drawings to illustrate some elements of the Christmas story, or joining our excellent production team. If you would like to be involved, contact Marion Williams by 1st December.

We encourage you to invite grandparents, friends and relatives to join either or both of these services. You can pass on

the zoom link for them to join. Please let Helen, in the office:

admin@beulahurc.org.uk

have the names of those you are inviting. This makes it easier for our tech people to recognise visitors names and admit them to the service from the virtual waiting room.

Our second Outdoor church session for children and their families will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 13th December, with an Advent theme. Those on the Junior church mailing will be getting more details about that shortly and, as usual, will need to book via Helen in the office.

Many children have been busy making Christmas cards which will be sent out to wish some of our older members a Happy Christmas from the church fellowship; and Youth Fellowship are busily preparing goody bags to deliver to older members of our community who would in previous years have

been invited to Beulah for Christmas Day.

Advent activity packs are being distributed for children to enjoy between now and Christmas: primary have had their special packs and scrapbooks already. URC gift packs of 'Advent hope and Joy' are being distributed to Juniors, Seniors and others who would like one.

The Canolfan garden will be transformed in the coming weeks, with elements of the nativity scene. We need some bright stars to twinkle above the stable and have some ready-made wooden stars for children to decorate with anything bright and sparkly. If you would like to have one of these, or if you would like, and haven't yet had, an Advent activity pack, please contact Fiona Liddell. We would like stars back by 5th December - let Fiona know when yours are ready.

Fiona Liddell

BEULAH TOTS

(Continued from p.8)

the task of leading the group. Unless someone is prepared to do this it will mean the group will have to cease meeting after many years. Members of Beulah started this group when their children were babies, and it would be such a shame if it had to fold.

If you feel you could help or would like more information, please let me know and I can then put you in touch with the current leaders if you are interested to know more. Thank you.

Barbara Rhys

A Big Thank You

We'd like to say a big thank you from Beulah to Eleanor Mills and Angie Hughes who are stepping down from their roles in running Youth Drop In on Friday afternoons after school. We are very grateful for all they've done in supporting young people from Beulah, and the wider community, for giving them a space to be together and for all the great activities they've coordinated. We're truly thankful for their time, energy, enthusiasm and drive in setting up the group and keeping it running brilliantly.

Eleanor set up Youth Drop In with Elaine Edwards in 2015, with Angie joining the team more recently. It filled a huge gap for our young people aged 11-14 and was popular straight away. It's continued to attract both

many regulars and new faces as they have started secondary school and moved up through the years.

On a personal note, both my own children have benefitted from being able to be part of the Friday group. Eva really appreciated being able to catch up with friends both from Beulah and from the Rhiwbina area who had moved on to different secondary schools. Jonathan particularly remembers the special events for Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year and Children in Need and the fun quizzes (and food tasting!) from different countries around the world.

Many thanks to you both.

Hollie Glanfield

Christmas in Beulah



A favourite story in the Glanfield household is 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' by Dr Seuss. We have the book and an accompanying CD where the story is read with a wonderful kindness by the comedy legend Rik Mayall.

We pick up the story where the Grinch has just stolen all Christmas presents so that the poor Whos, in Whoville, can't have Christmas. But all does not go as the Grinch anticipates.....

*"Pooh-pooh to the Whos!" he was grinchily humming.
"They're finding out now that no Christmas is coming!*

*They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two
Then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry boo-hoo!*

*That's a noise," grinned the Grinch,
"that I simply must hear!"
He paused, and the Grinch put a hand to his ear.
And he did hear a sound rising over the snow.
It started in low, then it started to grow.*

*But this sound wasn't sad!
Why, this sound sounded glad!
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,
Was singing without any presents at all!*

*He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!*

*And the Grinch, with his grinch feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling. "How could it be so?"*

*It came without ribbons! It came without tags!
It came without packages, boxes, or bags!"*

He puzzled and puzzled till his

*puzzler was sore.
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before.*

*Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more!*

*And what happened then? Well, in Whoville they say.
That the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day!*

*And then the true meaning of Christmas came through,
And the Grinch found the strength of ten Grinches, plus two!*

This year, Covid 19 will mean a very different Advent season for us all. But, just as for the Whos, Christ will come and we will celebrate the glory of His arrival. Our Advent may feel a little darker and colder than usual, but God will wrap us in the warmth of her love and the Holy Spirit will shine his light to lead us to the Christ child. Halleluia!

So what will Advent and Christmas feel like for us this year? We have a lot planned in Beulah (as well as our usual 10:30am Sunday Zoom services of course – which will continue throughout):

· Sunday 29th November.

First Sunday in Advent. Towards the End of the Day. Advent prayer and song (including music from Taize). Early evening (exact time tbc). Zoom.

· Sunday 6th December. Light for our Loss service. In Church. Booking will be required. We plan to run two sittings – 6:00pm and 7:30pm.

· Sunday 13th December. Morning worship in Church. Booking will be required – 10:30am.

· Sunday 13th December. Outdoor Junior Church with advent theme. Booking will be required – time and venue to be confirmed.

· Saturday 19th December. KIN Coffee Morning. Including the draw of the Advent raffle. In aid of Shelterbox. 10.30am. Zoom.

· Sunday 20th December. Seniors' Christmas Service. 10.30am. Zoom.

· Sunday 20th December. Lessons and Carols. 7:00pm. Zoom.

· Thursday 24th December. Christmas Eve. Blessing the Crib. 5.00pm. Zoom.

· Thursday 24th December. Christmas Eve. 'Rhiwbina Advent Stars' community service in aid of Ty Hafan and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital. 7:00pm. Live on Beulah URC FaceBook page.

· Thursday 24th December. Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass. In Church. 11:30pm. Booking will be required. We may run a second sitting at 10:00pm if there is sufficient interest.

· Friday 25th December. Christmas Morn. Family Service. Kids - bring your favourite Christmas present along to share with the congregation! 10:30am. Zoom.

As well as these activities, the McCarthy family will be delivering goodie bags, packed with the help of the Youth Fellowship, to those who would normally join us for Christmas lunch. We will be having an Advent booklet and an Advent DVD, which are currently being prepared. Many of us will also have collected our Advent swags, adding some Christmas cheer to our front doors. We are also considering whether we might be able to safely undertake some carol singing around the Village.

We'll also be seeing if we can hold Outdoor Church and Garden Church services in December – but these will be very weather dependant and all

(Continued on p.11)

Christmas in Beulah

(Continued from p.10)

our health safety is paramount at this time.

Further information on all of the above will be coming out via the Pastoral Elders, but if you would like to be involved in any of these activities please let our Church Administrator, Helen White, know and she can put you in touch with the organisers. Please also keep an eye on the Beulah Friends Facebook group.

So, not quite our normal Advent and Christmas, but the Grinch that is Covid-19 can't stop the coming of our Lord and Saviour!

God Bless.

Andrew Glanfield

Christmas Donations for Space4U and The Huggard Centre at Mansell's Estate Agency

Many of you will know Diane and Philip Grimson who attend Beulah. They have kindly offered to provide a drop-off point in Mansell's Estate Agency on Heol y Deri, for donations of toiletries – shampoo, shower gel, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. In addition, donations of socks, boxers and pants would also be welcome. All donations will be divided between The Huggard Centre, working with the homeless, and Space4U, working with refugees and asylum seekers in Cardiff.



Memories

When I walked past Beulah last week and saw the beautiful poppy display in the window I was transported back to The Beulah Players show in December 2018.

We had a great time rehearsing and performing our tribute to The Suffragettes, the R.A.F. and the brave men and women who lost their lives in the First World War.

The profits from the ticket sales and the raffle enabled us to send £200 to The Royal British Legion poppy appeal.



Little did I know at the time that it would be the last Beulah Players show for a very long time.

Following my brain injury in March 2019, and 3 months in hospital, I was unable to organise a production last Christmas, although my wonderful Beulah Players friends arranged a Christmas meal at the Juboraj instead.

I was so looking forward to being able to put on a show in 2020, but alas, it was not to be. The dastardly Coronavirus has thwarted us yet again.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the Beulah Players, past and present, for all their hard work over the years. It has been a great pleasure working with you all, and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

Thanks also to all our supporters, the audiences who have turned up, year after year, to watch us.

I can look back on all the wonderful productions in the church – “A Christmas Carol”, “Midsummer Night's Dream”, “The Nativity”, “Our Town” and many others.

Not forgetting, of course, the shows in the Canolfan – “Old Time Music Hall”, “The Sound Of Music”, “The Wizard of Oz”, pantos galore and musical reviews of all types.

Of course, none of these shows would have been possible without the help of my friends - Jan Stapleton (my co-producer), Lucy Chiplin (and all her wonderful backstage helpers).

Then there were all the pianists, guitar players and drummers - particularly Dr Alun Jones, Mrs Dorothy Jones, Ruth Williams and Jeremy Jones (no relation to either Dr Alun or Dorothy)

Please forgive me if I have left anyone out, but there have been so many wonderful people who have helped the Beulah Players over the last 35 years that it would be impossible to mention them all in this short notice.

I would just like to remember all those Beulah Players who have gone to the great theatre in the sky, and who are dearly missed by all their friends.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure working with you all, and I am still hoping that we might be able to get back together in the future, when the world returns to normal.

I am not quite ready to say goodbye, or indeed “So long – farewell” to The Beulah Players yet, and I hope that “we'll meet again” when we “follow the yellow brick road”, because, as we all know, “there's no business like show-business!!”

Thanks a million,

Carol Coleman



**RECYCLE YOUR WRAPPERS ETC.
SAT 14TH NOV, 12TH DEC & 16TH JAN
10AM - 3PM
OUTSIDE THE**

LITTLE PEOPLE STORE



&



For more info see our facebook page.

Christmas Eve Carols

outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge ... perhaps!

As you all know, Carol Singing around the streets of Rhiwbina is one of Beulah's favourite Christmas traditions. Sadly, as with so many other things, it has not been possible this year. However, we are hoping to be able to organise some Carol Singing on Christmas Eve outside the Margaret Whittaker Lounge. It is always such a joyful occasion with



families and passers by stopping to listen, or passengers hurriedly donating a bit of money before the traffic lights change! Please look out for further details. We may have to do things slightly differently this year, but we're sure the community would be especially pleased to hear and see us and to join with us in the celebration of Christmas.

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **January 2021** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 27th December** and **Huw** will be editing.

Editorial Team

Colin Grimes,

Huw Morgan,

Please note, new editorial email address:
crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

CHRISTMAS GIFTS 2020

We 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 deliver your gifts to Ann Grimes (address in Church Directory) between Monday 7th and Sunday 13th December.

Thank you,
Barbara

Energy and Heating Replacement Feasibility Study on the Canolfan: further update from the Eco Group

You may remember that in July's Crossroads there was an update from the Eco Group outlining the issues and actions around replacing the boiler in the Canolfan. The boiler had reached the end of its life and would need replacing in the autumn of 2020.

Beulah had commissioned a feasibility study to explore options for reducing substantially the carbon footprint and energy usage in the Canolfan in line with Eco Church commitments and the wishes of the church's membership. Holloway Partnership's draft report was received in August. Members of the Eco Group were invited to the Elders meeting on 14th September to discuss the findings of the report and its recommendations.

The following is a very brief summary of the points discussed:

- The aim of commissioning the study was to explore whether Canolfan Beulah could be a beacon for sustainability in the drive towards carbon neutral buildings in line with Synod policy. The study has shown there is scope for very significant reductions in energy use and carbon emissions, achieving this beacon aim. Not surprisingly, a 'complete' solution comes at quite significant capital cost but the study has provided insights into partial or staged solutions that are worthy of serious consideration.

- The most complete and viable way of reducing the energy usage and carbon footprint of the Canolfan is first to reduce energy demand (by improving the fabric of the building), then to consider changing the heat source (from gas-fired boiler to electric air source heat pump).

- The greatest heat loss is through the walls so insulating them externally would significantly reduce heating demand and warm air leakage. This intervention is expensive however.

- Adding insulation in the loft spaces (over the studio, the kitchen and the youth room) would be simple and cheap, but the reduction in heating demand is small.

- Replacing the windows could offer some energy savings but at significant cost so this is not recommended on its own.

Options for reducing heating emissions are:

New gas boiler: c. £8,000.

New gas boiler, plus insulate loft spaces: as above, plus c. £1,500.

Insulate walls and loft spaces, new radiators, air source heat pump (ASHP):
c. £90,000-£120,000. (Possible reduction of 85% in carbon dioxide emissions.)

Insulate loft spaces, new radiators, ASHP: c. £32,000. (Possible reduction of 75% carbon dioxide emissions with projected decarbonisation of electricity grid.)

The Elders and Leadership Team gave all the options careful consideration but decided that, at the moment, the only course of action open was to replace the boiler for immediate use during the autumn. This has now been completed and a new gas boiler is operational. It was also agreed that the loft insulation should be carried out as soon as possible.

The Elders emphasised that these steps were being taken as

an interim measure and agreed that Beulah should pursue the bigger picture.

Reducing the energy needed to heat the Canolfan remains by far the largest single step we can take towards Beulah becoming carbon neutral by 2040 in line with URC Synod policy. We are also committed to making the Canolfan a beacon for sustainability in Rhiwbina, Cardiff and beyond. The project will benefit the local community as well as Beulah. This commitment was backed by the Elders and Leadership Team at their recent meeting.

The Eco Group is planning to form a satellite group to work solely on this substantial project and will be seeking support from within Beulah and the wider community. We will be looking for expertise in several areas including with grant funding, further development of options, seeking community support and exploring precedents already set. Our aim is to launch the new group early in the New Year.

Please email or speak to Eileen Newington or Pat Ruddock if you would like further details or feel you could help. We would welcome your interest and would be glad to hear from you.



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WHAT'S IN A SHELTERBOX?



Please support our
Christmas Coffee Morning and Raffle

In 2020, SHELTERBOX helped families from
Cameroon to Syria.

From cyclones in Oceania to conflict in the Middle East, volcanoes in the Pacific to militia groups in Central Africa, emergencies and disasters are driving families from their homes. ShelterBox is giving those families life-changing shelter - somewhere dry and warm where they can sleep, cook and be together in safety.

You too can help give them a chance to start
rebuilding their lives.

You can offer some assistance to needy children and young people in Cardiff this Christmas by supporting
City URC's Christmas Gift appeal!



We are collecting toys, toiletries, and Christmas food for our local Salvation Army. They will distribute the gifts to struggling families and so help make this Christmas be a little special.
(PS: they especially require gifts suitable for older children and teenagers)

Please drop off your donations at City URC on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays before 2pm, or call the office on 029 20225190 to arrange collection from your home.

Alternatively, you could donate money which we will give directly to the Salvation Army to buy specific items they know they will need.

Please use Christmas Gift as your reference.
Thank you!