

CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

Church News

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus or Happy St David's Day!

Little is really known about St David. It is thought he was born in the year 500 and that his mother, St Non, gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire cliff top during a storm. The ruins of Non's Chapel are now on this spot together with a holy well believed to have healing powers.

St David was said to be a great preacher, founding monasteries in Wales, Brittany and England. St David's Cathedral is built on the site of an original monastery is where St David died on 1 March 1589.

In his last sermon St David said 'be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.' Perhaps something we can all hold in our hearts.

We are already entering the third month of the year and hopefully spring is on the way. My garden has some hopeful signs and these will be



welcomed by all the gardeners and garden lovers amongst us.

The beginning of Lent was marked by members of the congregation joining others at the Ash Wednesday Service at City URC on 14 February for a time of prayer and reflection. This was part of a wider movement across the country to declare No Faith in Fossil Fuels. We enter Lent mindful of our need to pray together for creation and the world. Our Lent Study began on 15 February at Beulah and can also be followed online. The material is from Christian Aid and is called Act on Poverty.



The Beulah Ninja knitters are not idle even when they are between Beulah projects. With Jo Jones they have been working on a wall hanging that has been requested by a teacher from Riverbank Special School in Ely to decorate a bare wall in the classroom of class 5 - Dosbach Coch. It is bright and tactile as some of the children are non verbal. The rainbow is

the School's motto. The work was shown to the church at the service on 18 February and blessed by Maggie Kirkbride who led the service.



It was good to see the church packed on the 31 January for the first Concert at the Crossroads of 2024. We were able to enjoy the talents of opera singers from the RWCMD and it was an excellent concert and a wonderful way to start the year.

The Huddle continues to meet at 11.00am on Wednesday and it is a very warm and friendly gathering of church members and members of the local community too. The short talks are varied and speakers have included Philippa Ballisat, Geraint Richards, Marion Williams as well as Martha and David. Anyone who would like to come along either to listen or to contribute are very welcome and there is always coffee and biscuits. Contact Fleur Richards for more details.

(Continued on p.3)

CONTACT

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Letter from the Manse

(Continued from Front page)

experience beauty. The practice of gratitude is a commitment to find something to give thanks for at all times. It is pausing in the midst of the mundane to notice the extraordinary. Gratitude is intentional. It is creating a moment to note some wonder in the cracks of life. It means seeing beyond our regular view to the joy that sits around the edges of life. What spark of goodness or beauty or care have we seen - even when pain has shaped us? This is the practice of gratitude, and reminds us that God is present with us in all our life experiences.

This month our lives may be full of mundane tasks. Terrible news may burst upon us. Beautiful events might shape us. Through all of our lives God is present. Through all that we do the thread of gratitude can weave these events

together to remind us that we do not need to be afraid for God is with us and will be with us. We are not alone.

Paul writes in Philippians 4.6, 'Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.' We probably will worry, but we can also give thanks in all things. In other words, offer a prayer of gratitude, even if it seems only for the smallest of things that we have noticed.

So take a moment today to notice some hint of joy that creeps into your life. Take a moment tomorrow to remember God is with you. And let gratitude shape your Lenten experience.

Thank you for being present on our journey.

Peace,
Martha and David

New Organ Fund



We already have £365 in the New Organ Fund. Thank you to everyone who attended the New Years Day Brunch.

Our next fundraising event will be an Easter raffle. Tickets will be available at coffee on Sundays.

The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Breakfast.

Also, if members of the Beulah Church Family would like to make a monetary gift, please mark clearly organ fund, and give to Barbara Rhys

Thank you



CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

(Continued from p.2)

Family News

A number of our congregation are unwell, at home or in hospital, and we wish them all the very best and a speedy recovery.

Every Blessing,
Anne

LUNCHTIME CONCERT

As I write, it is good to be able to tell you that the attendance at the Opera School lunchtime recital in late January was highly successful with 98 people in the audience!

We are currently advertising the cello recital with Rhys Herbert in late February, but March approaches and it is time to advertise the end of March recital which takes place in Easter week.

Wednesday 27 March at 1.00pm

Erin Gwyn Rossington - Soprano

Rhiannon Pritchard - Pianist

Born in North Wales, Erin was 2023 winner of the Towyn Roberts award at the National Eisteddfod. This is an opportunity to listen to one of the new generation of top Welsh singers. In previous years we have before included the Towyn Roberts winner in the Beulah series and we know we are in for a treat.

We welcome back Rhiannon Pritchard to accompany Erin.

Rhiannon has played at Beulah in the past and is in demand as a pianist and vocal coach throughout Wales.

Tickets £8 on the door

Trix

KIN

Together we care and together we share

KIN Report Feb 2024

I am slowly taking over the reins at KIN from Eileen Newington who has driven this area of Church life so successfully for many years. I would just like to extend a massive thank you to Eileen for all her tireless work for KIN and don't worry, she will still be involved moving forwards...if for nothing else – just to ensure I don't do anything wrong!!!! Thanks Eileen

Christmas 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, supported and donated to our KIN activities at the end of last year. I am delighted to say that the following amounts were raised:

Rhiwbina Festival: Tenovus Cancer Care £291.93 and Space4U £702.85

Blessing the Crib and Christmas Raffle for UNICEF: £791.57

Christmas Card for The Samaritans: £225.80 (to be rounded up to £300.00 from KIN funds)

Carol Singing for Ty Hafan: £61.03

KIN at Easter 2024

Alms Bowl

Our Alms Bowl collection this year will be in aid of Christian Aid. As in previous years, we ask that you put aside small change during Lent, as you are able. You can then bring your donation to church on Easter Sunday, give it to your Pastoral Elder or use BACS transfer to Beulah with the reference ALMS BOWL.

All money raised at our Easter events will go to Médecins Sans Frontières

Good Friday Lunch in the Canolfan at 12.30pm

This is a family meal of soup, bread and cheese to which all are very warmly invited. It will take place directly after the Good Friday Service. We hope to be joined by our friends from All Saints and Bethany.

Easter Breakfast

The Easter Breakfast is a wonderful way to begin our Easter celebrations and is held after early morning worship in the garden. All are very welcome. Please sign the list in the church porch nearer the time.

Geraint Richards

KIN

Dates for your diary ...

**Christian Aid Week
12th – 18th May**

**Big Brekkie
in the Canolfan
11th May**

Beulah Social

There are sign-up sheets in the church porch for the following shows at the Wales Millennium Centre:-

'Wizard of Oz' - ticket £44
on Thursday, 24th of July 2024

'Only Fools and Horses' - £42
on Thursday, 15th of May **2025**

'Juliet' - ticket £35
on Thursday, 19th of June **2025**

Any questions?

Please call Ann Grimes

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Editor's Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **April 2024** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 24th March.**



I would like to welcome Nigel Barwise to the Editorial Team. Nigel has very kindly offered to take on some of the production work, and so the April edition will be edited by Nigel. Contributions can still be sent to the same email Inbox, and that is at: crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

Creating New Christian Communities

I want to thank Beulah for sending me on the Westminster College course "Creating New Christian Communities" with blessing. This course was paid for by the URC Discipleship Development Fund. This fund is available to anyone who wishes to pursue additional learning which may benefit our community. I would like to explain a little about these emerging Christian communities (known as Fresh Expressions of Church), and how they can assist Beulah URC.

Twenty years ago, the Mission-Shaped Church report argued society had changed significantly. Crucially, it argued the UK was a post-Christian society, where Christian identity and culture are no longer normative. Among the (rather depressing) read, it said that churches could not presume their 'captive audience' on Sundays: Sunday opening hours and Sunday sport means making time for church has become difficult, so we need opportunities to gather and worship at other times and/or on other days. It also said that mass communication has enabled peer networks (often hobby and interest groups) to become as important as geography (if not more so), and churches need to relate these networks as well as their geographical locations.

Traditionally, one church strategy for 'mission' (a clumsy term with unhelpful connotations) has been to attract new members by extending an invitation to those outside the gathering by providing fun, lively, entertaining services in the hope that people will walk through the door and stay. A second approach suggests churches go into their communities in loving service, hoping that the people they serve will be drawn into the church on

Sunday. The main thrust of that model is to engage, rather than invite. There is nothing wrong with either of those two approaches per se, but I feel that the former runs the risk of becoming very superficial and the latter runs the risk of transforming church into an NGO.

Emerging Christian communities, however, are not traditional Sunday gatherings. These are small groups which go into a particular context and aim to establish and grow new Christian communities within it. It stays permanently in that context, allowing a new gathering to emerge organically. These communities often look different to traditional Sunday gatherings. They often meet in informal settings during times which are easier for attendees rather than in a church building on a Sunday morning. They focus on building relationships and listening to the community, finding out what kind of church they need and want. In short, the emphasis on relationships seeks to make sure the Church is something the congregation is, rather than a place to which the congregation goes.

These communities therefore exist to serve a particular context. They can be formed to serve a particular demographic, or those with a particular interest, such as cycling or a craft activity. Beulah does traditional Sunday gatherings well. However, those who cannot make it to church on Sunday (for entirely legitimate reasons – whether it be childcare, work, sporting activities or other commitments) do not receive ministry unless a Christian group can come alongside them and minister to them in that context.

Increasingly, a 'mixed economy' is being favoured. This is a 'mother' church which operates a traditional

Sunday gathering with a network of smaller 'plants'. These plants may retain their links with the 'mother' church, but the plants are congregations in their own right. Doing so allows the 'mother' to support these small plants with resources to enable it to flourish. An example may be for a group to be established to meet with commuters in a local café before work, to chat and, once everyone is comfortable, pray together for the day ahead.

The URC's own Lesslie Newbigin asked what it was for the church to anticipate Christ's fullness in every place. He answers that the 'place' in which the church is located "is not just the latitude and longitude of the spot where the church happens to be.... The "place" of the Church is not thus its situation on the surface of the globe, but its place in the fabric of human society... The existing congregation must be willing to go – to go outside the walls of the Church in order to become part of that other reality – in language, culture, style of life. Only so does there appear in the midst of that reality the sign and first-fruit of God's all-embracing purpose." (L. Newbigin: 'What is "a local church truly united"?' *Ecumenical Review* 29, 1977, pp. 115-28).

For Christ to be fully present, our ultimate concern should be that all should experience the fullness of life he provides. We could start small groups coming from Beulah to best serve Rhiwbina (and many have, illustrating the viability and organic nature of these groups!). We are all part multiple networks. If we served networks in the 'mixed economy' above, we would emerge far stronger and with greater members, for the glory of God in Rhiwbina.

Matt Jones

ROTAS

Date	AV	Readers	Intercessions	Flowers	Arranger
March					
3rd	James Hall	Ruth Williams	Neil Kidd	Lesley & Mary Richards	Karen
10th	Nigel Barwise	Roger Bidnell	Fiona Liddell	Gaynor Rees	Viv
17th	Andrew Glanfield	Derek Evans	Bev Hampson	tba	tba
24th	Harley Jones	Pat Ruddock	Mary Edwards	tba	Ann Brown
29th	Richard Sweetnam				
31st	Nigel Barwise	Cathy Wales	Lorraine Larcombe	Karen & Fleur	Karen
April					
7th	James Hall	Liz Kidd	Nigel Barwise	Ann & Colin	Karen
14th	Andrew Glanfield	Louise Morgan	Duncan Pugh	Mary & Roger Bidnell	Beverley
21st	Richard Sweetnam	Jill Ferdinando	Harley Jones	Arlene Ramasut	Arlene
28th	Nigel Barwise	Colin Grimes	Jonathan Grimes	Mary Richards	Karen

The Space4U Clothing Team needs your help!

Have you any trainers or shoes that you don't wear anymore?

There is always a great need for men's trainers and shoes - it's very hard to keep up with the demand for waterproof shoes. We would be so grateful if you have anything you could give us, and they would be much appreciated by those who come to the drop-in.

We mostly need trainers for men, but shoes for women and children would also be great.

While you're looking at the back of the cupboard, backpacks for college and suitcases are always needed as well!

Please contact Jackie Allen if you have any items you'd like to donate.

Thank you so much.

STAMPS

I know some of you like collecting postage stamps (although we don't seem to have so many now), and lots have been left over time in the Whittaker Lounge.

I've now found someone who collects postage stamps for RNIB and have taken her all the stamps. She was really pleased and will send them off for us.

So, please continue collecting the stamps and I'll take a bagful to her every few months. Perhaps you can leave them in the Whittaker Lounge, either for me, or add them into the stamp box which is on one of the shelves where the books are kept. Many thanks.

Eleri

World Day of Prayer - Friday, 1st March, 2024 at 2.00pm

Bethany Baptist Church, Heol Llanishen Fach, Rhiwbina.

The service this year has been organised and written by the women in Palestine who very much need our prayers at this time. Members from Beulah will be taking part and all the churches in Rhiwbina are involved in planning the service. The theme which would have been chosen some time ago, has become very apt:

"I beg you, bear with one another in love."

It is a special day as the wave of prayer moves across many countries of our world.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards. *Mary Bidnell*

ELDERS' DUTY ROSTER

Date	Elder on duty & Stewards	Vestry Prayer	Communion		
			Minister's Right	Minister's Left	Prep
			Prayer (P)		
March 3rd Communion	Tony Webb DE	Marianne Barwise	Colin Grimes	Secretary	Colin Grimes
	Viv Jones (S)		Barbara Rhys	Bev Hampson (P)	
	Harley Jones (S)		Philippa Ballisat	Beverley Clay	
March 10th	Beverley Clay DE	Mary Bidnell			
	Liz McCarthy (S)				
	Fiona Liddell (S)				
March 17th	Geraint Richards DE	Louise Morgan			
	Naomi Williams (S)				
	Mary Edwards (S)				
March 24th Palm Sunday	Eleanor Mills DE	Jonathan Grimes			
	Audrey Budding (S)				
	Richard Sweetnam (S)				
March 28th Maundy Thurs Communion	Bev Hampson DE		Anne James	Ian McDowell	Anne James
	Mike Warsop (S)		Kaye Mundy	Geraint Richards	
March 31st Easter Day Communion	Arlene Ramasut DE	Colin Grimes	Marion Williams	Secretary	Marion Williams
	Mike Warsop (S)		Barbara Rhys	Ruth Williams (P)	
	Andy Wales (S)		Jonathan Grimes	Marianne Barwise	

Date	Elder on duty & Stewards	Vestry Prayer	Communion		
			Minister's Right	Minister's Left	Prep
			Prayer (P)		
April 7th Communion	Eileen Newington DE	Eleanor Mills	Colin Grimes	Secretary	Colin Grimes
	Gaynor Rees (S)		Pat Agland	Andrew Glanfield (P)	
	Eleri John (S)		Mary Bidnell	Eleanor Mills	
April 14th	Marion Williams DE	Bev Hampson			
	Denise Dickman (S)				
	Derek Evans (S)				
April 21st	Mary Bidnell DE	Arlene Ramasut			
	Lesley Richards (S)				
	Hollie Glanfield(S)				
April 28th	Ian McDowell DE	Pat Agland			

Church Transport

Need a lift to and from church on Sundays? Please mention it to your Pastoral Elder, or Tony Webb, or Ann and Colin, and we will do our best to arrange it.

Editor:
Colin Grimes,

Email: crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

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

Family Film show

Another opportunity to see an old Disney favourite on Saturday 9th March 3pm.

The film is 'U' rated, so suitable for all the family and please encourage friends, relatives and neighbours to come as well. Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

No booking required and the event is free of charge, and will take place in the Canolfan. Refreshments (ice cream) available for purchase during a short interval.

We hope to hold a similar event on a monthly basis. If you ever fancied yourself as a cinema usher and would like to help, from time to time, with setting out chairs, using the projection equipment, selling ice-cream or just being a welcome presence, have a word with Fiona and we will be glad to get you involved!

Fiona Liddell

Church Family Camping



We are hoping to revive the Beulah camping weekend. A fun, simple relaxed camping weekend open to all. Would

you like to join us for a camping weekend 21st-23rd or 28-30th June '24, at Pembrey Sands, a great venue for kids.

See weblink below for activities on offer there-
<https://www.pembreycountrypark.wales/campsite/#book>.

Ring or e-mail Marianne Barwise if interested.



The BIG PLASTIC COUNT is back from 11 – 17 MARCH

.... and registration is NOW OPEN!

Discover your plastic footprint ... and use the results to make a difference!

Right now, world leaders are negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty which is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our planet from plastic pollution.

You can help by taking part in the Big Plastic Count – the results will be used to

convince UK ministers to lead the way at the United Nations talks and push for a strong treaty.

Taking part is really easy:

When you register, you'll receive a free pack which includes everything you need to take part; count all your plastic waste from 11 – 17 March; submit your data via the website by 31st March;

discover your footprint and use the results to make a difference!

thebigplasticcount.com

Nearly 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging are thrown away by UK households every year, and just 12% is recycled in the UK.

Eileen

Communion and Confession

Firstly, the confession, I forgot to include this item in the February edition of Crossroads, and I thought that it's such a lovely piece of news that I couldn't possibly not include it this month.

Colin

PS My apologies to Arlene!

'On 14th December, David, our minister, visited Joyce Matthias in her St Mellons Care Home to give her Communion. He was joined by Beulah members, Arlene, Cynthia and Karen and by Joyce's niece Linda. We sang several Carols, with Joyce joining in, and said the Lord's Prayer together which she remembered word for word. It was a lovely occasion. Thank you David for bringing Joyce such happiness that day.'

Arlene



Great Big Green Week Art Project

The Eco Group and Jo Jones are creating a gallery of images for the Canolfan wall ...
would you like to get involved?

The Great Big Green Week is in June and the Eco Group needs your help.

With the help of Jo, we are creating carbon footprint pictures to make an outdoor gallery. The pictures will be made from leaves, bark and petals collected from the local area.

We are asking if people will help us collect the leaves and bark of varying tones and colours; various browns, greys, blacks, yellows, greens, reds, rusts and oranges.

These leaves will be used to create collaged pictures at the end of May / beginning of June, but we need a variety of shapes, textures and colours, so we're starting our collecting now.

We are also planning to do a couple of group walks up the Wenallt, and sessions creating the Art Work. We hope lots of people will want to get involved. A box will be placed in the Canolfan for leaves.

Look out for more details and contact Eileen if you have any questions.

Thank you.





Beulah United Reformed Church

March 2024

All welcome

Sunday March 3rd	10.30am	Worship (Communion) - Revd. Martha McInnes Junior Church
Sunday March 10th	10.30am	Worship - Revd. James Hall Junior Church
Sunday March 17th	10.30am	Worship - Revd David Salsbury Junior Church.
Sunday March 24th Palm Sunday	10.30am	Worship - Mr. Matt Jones Junior Church
Thursday March 28th Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Communion in the Canolfan Revd. David Dean
Friday March 29th Good Friday	12.00pm	Revd. David Dean and Young People
Sunday March 31st Easter Sunday	8.45 am 9.00 am 10.30am	Canolfan Garden Service followed by Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday Communion - Revd. David Simpson

Mondays

Miss Tilley's Community Cafe:	9.30-12.00 (termtime)
Womens Fellowship	2.00-3.00

Tuesdays

Miss Tilley's Community Café	9.30-12.00 (termtime)
Beulah Tots	9.30-11.00 (termtime)

Wednesdays:

The Huddle	11.00-12.30 (termtime)
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Thursdays

Café Dosbarth	9.30-12.00 (termtime)
Lenten Study Group -	7.30pm
(7, 21 March at City Church; 29 February, 14 March at Beulah)	

Fridays and Saturdays

Whittaker Lounge Café	10.00-12.30.
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Sundays

Youth Fellowship	7.15 - 9.00 (termtime)
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