

CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

Winter is an etching, spring a watercolour, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all. Stanley Horowitz

November is here and our preparation for Christmas is underway. For Beulah it is a busy but hopeful time of year.

We ended September with a sugar-bag auction and supper. Promises were made and auctioned and well over £1000 was donated for Gaza and Yemen. We also had a wonderful evening of fellowship and laughter. Thanks to everyone who donated and took part in the auction, cooked and served the lovely meal and to Tony Webb for his auctioneering skills.

meeting on 12 October, where our Moderator, Revd David Salsbury, opened the day with a service focussed on peace, noting that there are nearly double the conflicts in 2023 that there were in 2009. He also looked back on a petition signed by 400,000 Welsh women in 1923, after the First World War. This became part of the movement that established the League of Nations. The petition, said to be seven miles long, called on America to join the League of Nations. I hadn't heard of this event and it made me want to know more as this must have been one of the darkest times for hope for a peaceful world. The Welsh Centre for International Affairs has been

We continue to long for peace in the world and to put our voice to calls to end war and echo the words of these women.



In our service on 6 October we marked the first anniversary of the attack on Israel and thought about the text from Genesis 'God is with us' and how, in these times when hope seems to be hard to sustain we can still follow God. David Salsbury on 13 October talked about the camel and the eye of the needle, and how we need to think about how we trust God and how much of ourselves we are prepared to give to God. Faith and hope for peace and justice continue to be a part of our prayers.

Family News

Val Yendle is in hospital following a fall at home and we wish her a speedy recovery, and our thoughts and best wishes go to all those who are unwell at home or in hospital.

Members of the congregation were delighted to celebrate their diamond wedding with

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At this time of widespread war and suffering, the desire for peace and hope are strong but seem ever distant. Some of us from Beulah were able to attend the Wales Synod

researching in archives across Wales to celebrate this event. Check out their website if you wish to know more. Sadly the world entered another war in 1939.

CONTACT

Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes,
Revd. David Dean,



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Church Treasurer: Barbara Rhys, Email: treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk
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Letter from the Manse

(Continued from Front page)

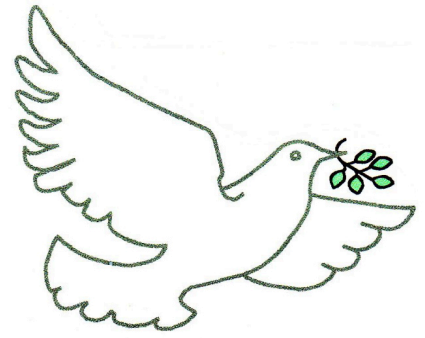
we deepen our connections to each other. In those connections we experience the love of God and continue the creation of community.

Peace,
Martha and David

A BIG THANK YOU

to all our Beulah friends for their good wishes, cards, flowers etc., on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. It was lovely to share our celebrations with so many after morning worship and a particular thanks to Ann and Louise for all their help in making the event go with a swing!

Betty and Derek



Future Pilgrimage?

Some of you may have been to Greenbelt before. Some of you may have heard of it. Some may think this is a land designation. In fact, Greenbelt is 'somewhere artistry meets activism, the secular meets the spiritual, politics meets positivity (it is) somewhere to come together once a year, where we're just as likely to dream up a better world as we are to dance and debate, to pray and to party.'

There are a number of people across the pastorate who attend regularly. The URC has a strong connection to the festival and hosts a cafe and craft tent as well as the youth tent. We are wondering whether there is any interest in taking a group from Cardiff. Would you like to attend in 2025?

Greenbelt is held outside Kettering, about 3 hours from Cardiff. Some people camp. Some find local B & B's in which they stay and travel to the site for the day. Some people attend and some people volunteer to reduce their costs. The dates are 21-24 August 2025. If you are interesting in going with others from Cardiff, have a word with Martha and David. We can also put you in touch with others who have been and may attend again.

CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

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Betty and Derek Evans, thank you for the cake and fizz!

We were also pleased to share in celebrating Mary Prosser's 93rd birthday after our service on 13 October (with more cake).

Congratulations to Rubina Lewis on the birth of her great grandson Cody. Our best wishes go to the whole family.

Every blessing,

Anne

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the flowers and greetings we have received from the Beulah church family in so many different ways. Your kindness and thoughtfulness has been special to us. Twenty years of our Sixty have been spent here in Beulah and we have so many happy memories over those years. This has been a special place for us.

Ken and Liz

Thank you from Space4U

Many thanks for the generous donation of food, toiletries and underwear from your Harvest service.

At Space4U, we regularly see around 80 people at our drop-in sessions on Monday and Thursday afternoons, where we offer friendship, English classes, recreational activities with refreshments, a hot meal and help with immediate needs. Our food store team currently provides around 30 parcels of food, toiletries and other essential items every month to those in need, with no other means of support. On Monday mornings, our clothing volunteers organise clothes, underwear, shoes, bedding and other household items for between 20 and 30 individuals and families every week.

Your kind donation helps towards all our ongoing support for the community of asylum seekers and refugees in Cardiff, for which we are very grateful.

With thanks and best wishes

Lynne Thomas
Trustee, on behalf of Space4U



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH BEULAH

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

This festive season, our Rhiwbina community-based church warmly invites you to experience the joy and wonder of Advent and Christmas. From carol services and family-friendly nativity plays to thoughtful reflections on the meaning of Christmas and time to remember those we have lost.

Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent 10.30am: Morning Worship, Communion & Junior Church

Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent 10.30am: Morning Worship & Junior Church
6.00pm: Light for our Loss – a service of remembrance for those grieving at Christmas.

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

10.30am: Morning Worship & Junior Church 5.45pm: Towards the End of the Day – a time for quiet reflection and music- upstairs in the Canolfan.

Tuesday, December 17: 6.00pm: Community Carol Singing – join us in Y Groes to sing your favourite carols, followed by refreshments at Whittaker Lounge Café.

Saturday, December 21: 10.45-12.00pm: Christmas Charity Coffee Morning – Fun festive music and singing with refreshments in the Canolfan! All proceeds to charity.

Sunday, December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent 10.30am: Family Service led by the young people of Beulah. 6.00pm: Community Carol Service– come and join us for carol singing.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve 5.00pm: Family Nativity Service led by our younger children.
11.15pm: Christmas Eve Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day 10.30am: Family Service

Beulah Players Present: Robin Hood

A family favourite show for all ages! Evening performances on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December and a Matinee show on Saturday 7th December. Email secretary@beulahurc.org.uk for tickets and show times.

Carol Singing at the Crossroads

Saturdays in December – 7, 14, and 21 from 10.00am. Join us outside the Church. All are welcome- proceeds to charity.

*All events are on the church unless otherwise noted. For more information, please visit our website (www.beulahurc.org.uk), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BeulahURC/) or email: secretary@beulahurc.org.uk.



KIN

Together we care and together we share

Rhiwbina Winter Festival

Saturday, 30th November, from 4-7pm

Our buildings will all be in use as we welcome visitors into the Canolfan, the church and the Whittaker Lounge.

In the Canolfan we will be raising money for Space4U

There will be the traditional craft stalls and we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies.

We will also be running a Christmas Raffle.

In the Whittaker Lounge and the church, we will be raising money for Tenovus

There will be hot drinks and cakes including 'special' hot chocolate. Visitors will be able to join in with a Christmas craft activity as well as enjoying festive music, including a live performance and community singing from the Tenovus Community Choir.

Please come along and enjoy the evening.

With all these activities planned, we need your help. There are often some very busy times, especially if it rains, so even if you are only available for an hour, we would love to hear from you.

If you are able to give up some time to help either in the Whittaker Lounge, the church or Canolfan please let Marion Williams know. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the church nearer the date.

KIN Committee

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS AT THE CROSSROADS

Wednesday 27th November at 1pm

Pedwar Bones - trombone quartet

A lunchtime recital with a difference

This RWCD ensemble comes to us highly recommended. Expect a lunchtime recital just before Advent Sunday with a difference. This should prove to be a lively and thoroughly enjoyable start to the Christmas season.

There were 100 people at the September recital so come and join us and add to our numbers!

Tickets £8 on the door as usual

Trix

FINANCE



Below are a few extracts from a letter recently received from the Head Office of the URC in London:

'Firstly, thank you for all your contributions to your local church in 2023. This includes your financial contribution which plays an important part in the life of the whole church through the Ministries and Mission Fund

The M&M Fund of the URC pays for ministers' stipends, training, Assembly costs and all the central support functions for ministry in the URC across three nations. The M&M Fund's main income is contributions from the churches with some top-up from synods, together with investment income and grants etc.....

So, thank you to all who continue to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2023 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.'

I would like to add mine and the Finance Committee's thanks to those above for all your continued support for Beulah.

Barbara
Church Treasurer

Good News for God's Earth

**The Synod
Eco Church Roadshow
is coming to City URC
on Saturday, 8th Feb 2025
from 10.00am – 3.30pm.**

The Eco Church Roadshow is open to everyone in the congregation. Ministers, Elders, Junior Church leaders, those involved with finance, buildings and church land, as well as all church members, are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. Please come along to join with other churches in the Pastorate.

We will share in worship and reflection, take a look at the updated Eco Church survey, discuss and plan our next steps and take part in creative responses and



activities. There will also be a Q&A session with Claire Boot, Synod Property Officer.

There are churches at different stages of the Eco Church journey within our Pastorate and the hope is that the day will provide an opportunity for us to share our stories and ideas.

From September 2024 through to March 2026, the Synod environmental steering group is taking the roadshow to every

region within the Synod of Wales. Revd. Jason Askew, Judy Harris and Eileen Newington (Synod Green Advocate) will lead the activities. Claire Boot and Chris Atherton will be available for Q&A sessions and Delyth Higgins, Eco Church Officer for Wales, will join us when she can.

We hope the roadshow will provide an opportunity for churches to network and support each other on the Eco Church journey across the Synod.

Full details will be published nearer the time along with a sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please speak to Eileen

Have yourself an eco-friendly Christmas!

At this time of year, many of us are thinking about how we can enjoy the Christmas season together without costing the Earth. There are some areas where lots of people making simple changes could add up to big reductions in emissions and waste.

Here are some quick tips for a greener Christmas from the Wildlife Trusts

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/how-have-eco-christmas>

PRESENTS:

- try making gifts yourself – there are lots of fantastic presents you can DIY
- buy presents from

shops that make their products in an ethical and sustainable way – or why not gift an experience?

- think quality, not quantity – a Secret Santa means you don't have to buy for everyone and helps to create less waste
- avoid non-recyclable wrapping paper by using brown paper and brown paper tape - better still, go for a reusable bag or box

FOOD:

- plan your meals so food doesn't go to waste – leftovers can make some of the tastiest meals!

HOW TO HAVE AN ECO-CHRISTMAS

- shop local – are there ingredients for your Christmas dinner that you can source from local farms or shops?
- compost your vegetables
- try out some veggie or vegan alternatives to cut down on meat and dairy

DECORATIONS:

- if you already have a cupboard full of sparkly

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Have yourself an eco-friendly Christmas! Continued from page 6

Christmas decorations, make sure to use them

- instead of plastic tinsel, try using bunting, pinecones, or popcorn tinsel instead

- avoid buying Christmas crackers that contain plastic toys

- be creative and try to avoid floral foam (oasis) in your Christmas flower arrangements

Why not take a look at some more great green Christmas ideas from these organisations ...

Marine Conservation Society

<https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/ocean-friendly-living/sustainable-christmas-ideas/>

Friends of the Earth

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/about/21-ecofriendly-christmas-tips>

Centre for Alternative Technology

<https://cat.org.uk/top-tips-for-a-green-christmas/>



Helping churches to care for creation together



Eco Group news –
what we're doing and how you can get involved!

ROTAS

Date	AV	Readers	Intercessions	Flowers	Arranger
November 3rd	Andy Wales	Hollie Glanfield	Roger Bidnell	Eleanor Mills & Brenda Manby	Karen
10th	Andrew Glanfield	Jonathan Grimes	Richard Sweetnam	Elin James	Marianne
17th	Ian McDowell	Cathy Wales	Derek Evans	Arlene Ramasut	Arlene
24th	Richard Sweetnam	Brenda Cheer	Roger Martin	Trix Pryce	Karen
December 1st	Nigel Barwise	Arlene Ramasut		Flower Fund	tba
8th	James Hall	Jill Ferdinando		Flower Fund	tba
15th	Andy Wales	Vicki Grimes		Flower Fund	tba
22nd	Andrew Glanfield	tba		Flower Fund	tba
25th	Ian McDowell	tba		Flower Fund	tba
29th	tba	tba		Flower Fund	tba

Elders and Stewards Rota November 2024 - January 2025

Date	Elder on duty (DE) & Stewards (S)	Vestry prayer	Communion			
			Minister's right	Minister's left	Preparation	Communion Prayer
			(P = Prayer)			
November 3rd Communion	Colin Grimes DE Hollie Glanfield (S) Gaynor Rees (S)	Mary Bidnell	Ian McDowell Barbara Rhys Louise Morgan	Secretary Eleanor Mills (P) Beverley Clay	Ian McDowell	Eleanor Mills
November 10th	Geraint Richards DE Naomi Williams (S) Gaynor Rees (S)	Arlene Ramasut				
November 17th	Eleanor Mills DE Audrey Budding (S) Richard Sweetnam (S)	Jon Grimes				
November 24th	Bev Hampson DE Mike Warsop (S) Helen Harries (S)	Ian McDowell				

December 1st	Marion Williams DE Giles Ballisat (S) Mary Edwards (S)	Philippa Ballisat	Geraint Richards Jenny McDowell Geraint Richards	Secretary Jonathan Grimes(P) Bev Hampson	Geraint Richards	Jon Grimes
December 8th	Arlene Ramasut DE Andy Wales (S) Ann Grimes (S)	Jenny McDowell				
December 15th	Kaye Mundy DE Lesley Richards (S) Denise Dickman (S)	Eleanor Mills				
December 22nd	Philippa Ballisat DE Helen Harries (S) Derek Evans (S)	Liz Kidd				
December 24th Christmas Eve Communion	Andrew Glanfield DE Ann Grimes (S)	None	Eileen Newington Marion Williams	Secretary Colin Grimes (P)	Eileen Newington	Colin Grimes (check with worship leader)
25th December Christmas Day	Marianne Barwise DE Mary Edwards (S)	None				
29th December	Ian McDowell DE Eleri John Audrey Budding	Jenny McDowell				
5th January 2025 Communion	Mary Bidnell DE Andy Wales Nigel Barwise	Kaye Mundy	Andrew Glanfield Kaye Mundy Jonathan Grimes	Secretary Marion Williams(P) Eleanor Mills	Andrew Glanfield	Marion Williams

**Beulah Church Family Christmas Meal
at Whitchurch Golf Club
7.00pm, Thursday, 5th December 2024**

If you haven't already signed up to our Christmas Meal, you still have a few weeks left to do so. There is a poster on the notice-board in the Church vestibule/porch, with details of the meal, and a list for you to sign, and add your meal choices. The meal will be **£28 per head**, (£29.50, if you choose the cheeseboard option for dessert). The list will be in the church porch until **Sunday 24th November**, but please add your name and meal choices as soon as you can, to ensure your place. If you would like to come, and are unable to get to church to fill in your name on the sheet, please contact Ann or Colin Grimes, no later than Tuesday 26th November. We're sure we'll be able to 'squeeze' you in!

An Important Job!

Remember the story about the important job to be done and **everybody** was sure **somebody** would do it? **Lots of people** could have done it, but **nobody** did it! Well, read on!

We are very blessed in Beulah to have services led by Martha and David our ministers once a month. In addition, we have a number of retired ministers and a lay preacher who also lead worship. However, there are, of course, 52 Sundays and it is the job of the Pulpit Secretary, Louise Morgan, to find worship leaders for every Sunday – no small task!

During the vacancy, there were many people in the congregation who took part in leading worship, often as a small group. This resulted in a

rich variety of services and was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Looking ahead, it is important that we nurture people from within our congregation, to equip them to continue in the future to take part in leading worship. So, it is for that reason we are holding a workshop on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm in the MWL. This is aimed at those who have in the past contributed to services or feel it is something with which they would like to be involved in the future.

This session is about increasing confidence and skills and will look at:

Leading public prayer

Choosing music

Preparing a 5 minute reflection

Where to find resources

By coming along you are NOT signing up to lead a service! It is about equipping us better to take part in leading worship.

Please consider carefully and prayerfully if this is something you would like to dip your toe into. Just come and see!

Hope to see some of you on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm in the Margaret Whittaker Lounge.

Maybe you are the **somebody** who could do this!

For more information please speak to Jenny McDowell.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Operation Christmas Child

Final call for shoeboxes!

Please send them in by

Sunday 3rd November.

Thank you, Ann

DIRECTORIES

This month you should be receiving the new Directories.

Please do not put the old ones in your recycling sacks, but destroy carefully.

If you do not have a home shredder you can bring them to church so they can be destroyed in the office shredder.

Thank you.

Editors' Note

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



Contributions should be sent to Nigel, in person, by post or by email at:

crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk

Editors:

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

BEULAH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

November 2024

Sunday 3 November	10.30am	Worship - Revd .Martha McInnes/Revd David Dean* Communion - Junior Church
	6.00pm	BWise – Young Teens Group
Sunday 10 November	10.30am	Worship – Revd Martha McInnes/Revd David Dean* Junior Church
Monday 11 November	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting
Saturday 16 November	3.00pm	Family Film Show
Sunday 17 November	10.30am	Worship - Maggie Kirkbride* Junior Church
Tuesday 19 November	7.30pm	Theology on Tap, Deri Inn.
Saturday 23 November	10.15am	Gathering for Prayer, St Teilos RC Church (next to the Fox&Hounds), Old Church Road
Sunday 24 November	10.00am	Songs of Praise and Blessing before the morning service
Sunday 24 November	10.30am	Worship – Mr Richard Edwards* Junior Church
Weds 27 November	1.00pm	Lunchtime Concert – Pedwar Bones, Trombone Quarter

- Coffee will be served in the Canolfan after Sunday worship unless otherwise stated

Mondays	9.30am - 12.00	Miss Tilley’s Community Cafe
	2.00 - 3.00pm	Women’s Fellowship
Tuesdays	9.30am - 12.00	Miss Tilley’s Community Cafe
	9.30am - 11.00	Beulah Tots
Wednesdays	11-12.30	The Huddle
Thursdays	9.30-12.00	Cafe Dosbarth
Fridays and Saturdays	10-12.30	Whittaker Lounge Cafe
Sundays	7.15-9.00	Youth Fellowship (term time)