

CHURCH AND FAMILY NEWS

On a sunny Armistice Day I had a trip to Brecon and discovered the Brecon Peace Garden. Although only small it was beautifully laid out and peacefully set in a corner of the busy town. It seemed an oasis of calm and a fitting place to wander around on that day.



On Remembrance Sunday David provided a thoughtful and moving service where we lit candles in the shape of a poppy and in the shape of the Trinity.

As we move through November, we are planning our Advent activities and look forward to the many ways we worship at this time of the year. Beulah has taken on the community carols in Y Groes at 6.00 pm on the 17 December at the request of the residents. We will be bringing musicians and inviting everyone back to the Whittaker Lounge for refreshments afterwards. It is hoped that this will become a part of our Christmas celebrations and a way we

can support the community at Christmas. There will also be Carol Singing outside the Whittaker Lounge on the first three Saturdays of December - watch out for our leaflets and the new banner.

On the weekend of 14 and 15 December we will be hosting an art exhibition by Stephen Best in the Studio in the Canolfan. It will be open on the Saturday for the public and on Sunday morning after the service too. It will be good to welcome Stephen back to Beulah again.

So a busy time for us all, but also a time to be thoughtful and reflective.



Family News

The Beulah family were all deeply saddened at the sudden death of Heather Bishop. Our thoughts and prayers go to her son Robin and her friends and family. Her funeral will take place on Friday 6 December at 10.30am in Beulah, 11.30 in the Crematorium and afterwards in the Canolfan.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to all those who are unwell at home and in hospital.

A Very happy birthday to John Williams, father of Kevin

Williams and father-in-law of Marion, is 95 in December.

Congratulations to Owen McCormack for being awarded Distinction in his Masters in Interpretation and Translation in French and Italian from Swansea University.

Every blessing,

Anne

Church Flowers.

A big thank you to all of you that have donated or arranged the flowers in Church this year.

A chart for the first half of 2025 has been put up on the board in Beulah. Please will you put your name against the date you wish to donate the flowers and / or can arrange flowers.

This is a lovely way of remembering a loved one or helping those who receive the flowers after Church when unable to attend, unwell or struggling. They are always gratefully received.

Many thanks, Beverley, Karen and the flower team.

Family Film

The next family film is on Saturday 18th January at 3pm.

Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes
Revd. David Dean



CONTACT

Church Secretary: Email: secretary@beulahurc.org.uk
Church Treasurer: Email: treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk
Church Office: Tel: 07309 738828 Email: bookings@beulahurc.org.uk

Operation Christmas Child

Can I say a big thank you to the 'Ninja Knitters' for all the knitting of scarves, hats, and gloves they made for the Shoebox collection. I don't want to leave anyone out, so to everyone else who helped in any way, a big thank you.



With all your generosity, we were able to send off 67 boxes to children who, otherwise, would probably not receive any presents this Christmas.

You are all wonderful!

Best wishes, *Ann Grimes* x

Letter from the Manse

(Continued from Front page)

With war, poverty, tyranny and fear dominate across the world we may wonder how Love can be born among us now.

Madeleine L'Engle encourages us in 'The Risk of Birth':

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour & truth were trampled to scorn—
Yet here did the Saviour make His home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

It is clear that 'what the world (still) needs now is Love, sweet Love.' In the midst of the fun, the fear, and the festivities of this season may we let Love be born for us, and through us.

May you have a blessed Advent and a joy-filled Christmas.

Martha and David

Beulah Tots

Beulah tots is on every Tuesday in term time from 9.30-11am for babies and toddlers from 0-3 years of age.

I will be stepping down from this role at Easter after 4 years of involvement.

For anyone interested in this work I will explain a little of what is involved.

The toys and chairs, cups and coffee/tea are set out as well as a craft table each week. There is a fee of £2.00 to cover costs.

We have a sing-a-long and bubbles at the end of the session and birthday books given out if there is one to celebrate.

The parents, grandparents and carers are all responsible for their children at all times and they are very helpful putting away the toys at the end of the sessions.

In the warmer months we have the use of the garden and have plenty of outside toys for the children. The numbers who attend are 35 to 40 people, this includes the children.

I encourage anyone who has a spare Tuesday morning to take on this role as it has been a very rewarding and vital part of the work we do at Beulah.

Fleur Richards

Space4U Food Collection

A reminder that a box will be available in the porch on the 1st Sunday of each month for donations of food items for Space4U – long life milk, fruit juice, tins of tomatoes, tins of tuna and packets of dried spaghetti. The next collection is on 5th January.

Thanks, *Jenny*

THE BEULAH PLAYERS PRESENT
THE ADVENTURES OF
ROBIN
HOOD
THE PANTOMIME

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5TH 7:30PM

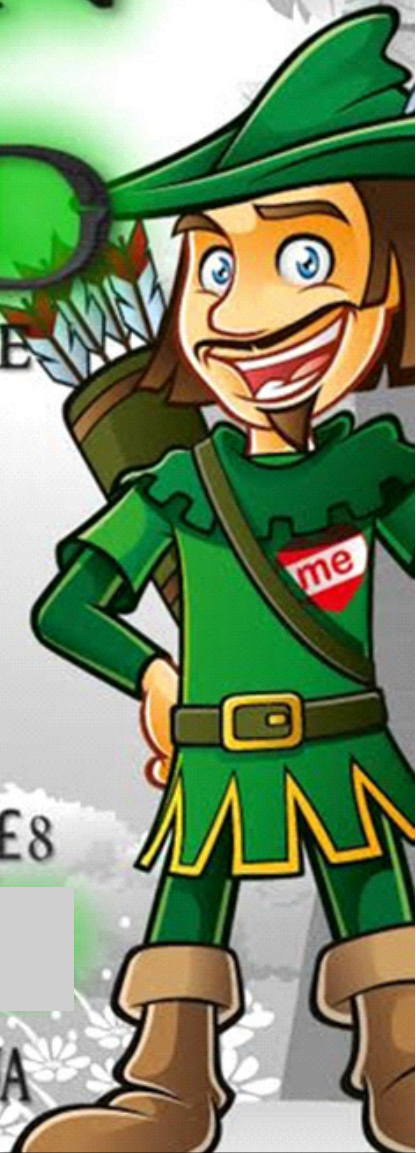
FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH 7:30PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH 3PM

ADULTS £10

CHILDREN/CONCESSIONS £8

CANOLFAN BEULAH, RHIWBINA



Christmas is just around the corner so please come and join **Good Neighbours in North Cardiff (GNiNC)** on **Thursday December 5th** at Llanishen Rugby Club as we celebrate the festive season with an across the board musical selection of Christmas favourites! The night begins at **7pm** and includes a light buffet with music from the Ukelele Wolves, Oriana and the Choir with No Name. This event is helping raise funds for our local charity.

Our services are essential especially during the winter months, when our team of volunteers support people in North Cardiff enabling them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. For further information and to purchase tickets, email support@gninc.org.uk. Let's start the Christmas Season with Good Neighbours!

Monico Movies
Saturday 14th December 2024

The Holdovers (15)



Our December screening is the Christmas film “**The Holdovers**”. Set in a private boarding school in New England in 1970, it tells the story of a group of pupils (the holdovers) left behind over the festive period by their families. Also forced to remain on campus to babysit the boys is curmudgeonly Professor Paul Hunham (**Paul Giamatti**) and school chef Mary Lamb (**Da'Vine Joy Randolph**), grieving the recent loss of her only son in Vietnam. The film focuses on the relationship between Angus Tully (played by complete newcomer **Dominic Sessa**) and Professor Hunham and how they navigate this enforced time together.

It is beautifully filmed, across five different schools in Massachusetts, to capture the authenticity of the location and the time the script was set in. “I wanted it to be not just a movie set in 1970, but a movie that looks and sounds as though it had been shot in 1970,” Director, Alexander Payne explains. Cinematographer Eigil Bryld therefore used traditional film stock that was used in that decade in Hollywood and aged the film to achieve that authentic ‘70s look.

The Holdovers is a thought provoking film, both funny and sad in equal parts, delivering some impressive acting from the leads and providing Randolph with an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.

CAST: Paul Giamatti, Dominic Sessa, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Carrie Preston

DIRECTOR: Alexander Payne

Tickets are available from our usual Rhiwbina outlets, **Serenade, Victoria Fearn Gallery, The Honeypot and The Deri Stores**

£5 cash only please.

Please note, we have a limited capacity and we do not reserve tickets. All tickets are placed for sale at our ticket outlets.

Monico Movies start at 7.30pm doors are open at 7pm
and show at:

Canolfan Beulah Church Community Centre,
Beulah Road, Cardiff, CF14 6LX

Details of our January film to be revealed at our December screening.



PLEASE TAKE 30 MINUTES OUT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS TO GIVE A GIFT TO THE PLANET

During the Season of Creation in October, many of you signed a petition urging the Welsh Government to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Some people also signed a letter to Julie Morgan MS.

We need to keep up the momentum - could you send a letter to one or more of our regional Senedd Members?

(Sending a handwritten letter is much more effective than signing a prepared print off.)

Here are the names and addresses of South Wales Central Senedd Members:

- Rhys ab Owen MS 66 Leckwith Road Canton Cardiff CF11 8AP
- Andrew R.T. Davies MS Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1SN
- Heledd Fychan MS 2 High Street Pontypridd Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 1QJ
- Joel James MS Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1SN

Here is the letter template – you can personalise it to say why you care and *remember to include your address and postcode*. THANK YOU! (Any questions, please speak to Eileen)

ADDRESS AND POSTCODE

Dear
As your constituent, I would like to draw your attention to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, a global proposal to plan the phase out of fossil fuel supply, fast and fairly. I hope that you will back the plan and write to the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to ask the Welsh government to support the treaty.

The Fossil Fuel Treaty is made up of three pillars that governments around the world have already committed to:

1. Ending expansion of fossil fuels;
2. A fair phase out of existing fossil fuel production;
3. A globally just transition to clean energy for every community, country and worker.

The Welsh government has already committed to the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA) and has clear policy objectives to avoid the continued extraction and consumption of fossil fuels. This is significant and sees Wales leading the way amongst the governments of the UK; supporting the Fossil Fuel Treaty would help Wales further its own policy objectives around oil and gas, as well as BOGA's.

The climate crisis is already threatening Welsh communities; sea level rises are eroding Welsh coastlines, while extreme weather endangers lives, homes and food security, with the shockwaves felt across the economy. These same threats are felt acutely by the Pacific Island states – some of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world – who are spearheading the Fossil Fuel Treaty campaign. Their survival depends on a successful global transition away from fossil fuels; Wales has a duty to stand with them and support their demands.

The UK's nations were the birthplace of the industrial revolution. Joining the Fossil Fuel Treaty could make Wales a central part of a new revolution that leads to a sustainable, fairer global future. Welsh endorsement of the treaty would signal widespread support for a fair global fossil fuel phase out, demonstrating that Wales can work with governments in the UK and globally to lead on a fair phase out of fossil fuels.

I hope that you will write to the cabinet secretary and ask him to support this key proposal which could help hold back the worst of the climate crisis. If you would like to learn more about the Fossil Fuel Treaty, please read Global Justice Now's briefing for Members of the Senedd: www.globaljustice.org.uk/resource/the-fossil-fuel-treaty-briefing-for-mss/

Yours sincerely,

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!
- 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 Christmas decorations, make sure to use them
- instead of plastic tinsel, try using bunting, pine cones, 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/>

Good News for God's Earth

The Synod Eco Church Roadshow is coming to City URC on Saturday, 8th February 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.

ROTAS

Date	AV	Readers	Intercessions	Flowers	Arranger
December					
1st	Nigel Barwise	Arlene Ramasut	Brenda Cheer	Flower Fund	tba
8th	James Hall	Jill Ferdinando	Geraint Richards	Flower Fund	tba
15th	Andy Wales	Vicki Grimes	Jenny & Marion	Flower Fund	tba
22nd	Andrew Glanfield	tba	Youth Fellowship	Flower Fund	tba
25th	Ian McDowell	tba	tba	Flower Fund	tba
29th	Nigel Barwise	tba	Matt Jones	Flower Fund	tba
January					
5th	Andrew Glanfield	Geraint Richards	Roger Bidnell	tba	tba
12th	Ian McDowell	Jenny McDowell	Andy Wales	tba	tba
19th	Richard Sweetnam	Mark Stephens	Ian McDowell	tba	tba
26th	James Hall	Eleri John	Rev David Simpson	tba	tba

KIN
Together we care and together we share

Christmas Post Box

This year we will be having our "Christmas Post Box" once again. The post box will be for the Beulah church family only and will be available for posting during December. The cards will be available for collection at the KIN Coffee Morning on the 21st December.

Family Christmas Card

The Family Christmas Card has been made by our young people and will be available at the front of Church for anyone to sign and send their greetings to the rest of the Church Family. Donations to Papyrus.

Carol Singing in December

We will be singing carols outside the MW Lounge on Saturday 7th, 14th and 21st from 10:30-11:30a.m. Donations to Papyrus. Please join us if you are able.

KIN Christmas Coffee morning

This will be held on Saturday 21st December starting with Carols outside the MW Lounge at 10.00 a.m. and then moving to the Canolfan for Coffee and Music courtesy of the Cheer family and friends. Donations from the Coffee Morning will go to the Wallich Clifford Community.

Fundraising Totals- over the last couple of months the following funds have been raised:
£155.33 for Health Help International – raised by Junior Church from the sale of vegetables etc from the Canolfan garden during the Summer.
£217.20 for Papyrus as a result of the walk that some Beulah members and friends did in October.
£1,039.99 – Harvest Supper/Auction in September which we will be adding £2000 from Mair's bequest monies to make a total of £3,039.99 which will be split between DEC for Gaza/Lebanon and Sudan.

Challenge, Choice and Change

An Exhibition of Work

by

Revd Stephen Best

Canolfan Beulah Studio

14 December for the public

and 15 December (after morning service)

50 plus paintings including Landscape and Life, Portraiture
and Church and Community

**Regular Church Family Meal
2025**

For 2025 we will be having a free church family meal every 3rd Sunday of the month, after morning worship and coffee. It will be a time to share a in a seasonal cooked meal, whilst building friendships and relaxing. It is open to all, in the church and local community.

Marianne Barwise will be co-ordinating the regular meal, similar in style to the Harvest supper. She is looking for helpers happy to come on a rota to prepare a simple hot meal i.e. chop veg or provide a pudding. There will be a meeting early in the New Year to plan further.

Theology on Tap

The next one is Tuesday
14th January.

Tots and Huddle

The last Tots group of the year
will be December 10th and the
last Huddle December 11th.

ELDERS' DUTY ROSTER

	Elder on duty (DE) & Stewards (S)	Vestry prayer	Communion		
			Minister's right	Minister's left	Preparation
			(P = Prayer)		
1st December	Marion Williams (DE)	Philippa Ballisat	Eileen Newington	Secretary	Eileen Newington
Communion	Giles Ballisat (S)		Louise Morgan	Colin Grimes (P)	
	Mary Edwards (S)			Arlene Ramasut	
8th December	Arlene Ramasut (DE)	Jenny McDowell			
	Andy Wales (S)				
	Ann Grimes (S)				
15th December	Kaye Mundy (DE)	Eleanor Mills			
	Lesley Richards (S)				
	Denise Dickman (S)				
22nd December	Philippa Ballisat (DE)	Liz Kidd			
	Helen Harries (S)				
	Derek Evans (S)				
24th December	Andrew Glanfield (DE)	None	Geriant Richards	Secretary	Geriant Richards
Christmas Eve	Ann Grimes (S)		Marion Williams	Colin Grimes (P)	
Communion					
25th December	Marianne Barwise (DE)	None			
Christmas Day	Mary Edwards (S)				
29th December	Ian McDowell (DE)	Jenny McDowell			
	Eleri John (S)				
	Audrey Budding (S)				
5th January 2025	Mary Bidnell (DE)	Kate Mundy	Andrew Glanfield	Secretary	Andrew Glanfield
Communion	Nigel Barwise (S)		Kay Mundy	Marion Williams (P)	
	Andy Wales (S)		Jonathan Grimes	Eleanor	
12th Jan	Colin Grimes (DE)	Arlene Ramasut			
	Cathy Wales (S)				
	Richard Sweetnam (S)				
19th Jan	Ian McDowell (DE)	Eileen Newington			
	Derek Evans (S)				
	Denise Dickman (S)				
26th Jan	Bev Hampson (DE)	Phillippa Ballisat			
	Harley Jones (S)				
	Helen Harries (S)				

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We have a couple of vacancies on the above committee and would very much welcome anyone interested in finance to join us. Currently we are a group of 6: myself, Ruth Williams (Chair), Colin Grimes, Eleri John, Harley Jones and Fiona Reynolds.

We report to Elders and then to Church Meeting and meet as and when required so it is not too onerous in terms of time. Our oversight of the Church's income and expenditure covers all areas of the Church's life, and having lost some members over the past year or two, we feel the time has come to invite new members to join us.

If you would be interested and/or like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Rhys
Church Treasurer

Lunchtime Recitals

The next lunchtime recital will be on **January 29th at 1pm** when a group of opera students from the RWCMD will give what has become an annual **concert of their songs and arias**. (Singing and performing for a live audience is an important part of their training). The Head of Opera at the College, James Southall, has said he will accompany them. We are delighted to welcome him.

Tickets £8 on the door.

The
Meaning...

...of
Christmas



Come and Celebrate
Christmas with Us



Beulah URC, Rhiwbina



Services:

- Advent Sundays
- Light for our Loss
- Family-friendly Nativity
- Midnight on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day



And also:

- Carol Singing
- Pantomime
- Christmas Quiz
- Carol Service
- Charity Music & Coffee Morning
- and more!!

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.

Editors' Note

The **deadline** for articles to be included in the **February 2025** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 19th January**.

Contributions should be sent to Colin, in person, by post or by email at:
crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk



Beulah United Reformed Church

December 2024

All welcome



Sunday 1 December	10.30am	First Sunday of Advent - Revd .Martha McInnes/Revd David Dean Communion Service - Junior Church
	6.00pm	BWise – Young Teens Group
Sunday 8 December	10.30am	Second Sunday of Advent- Revd Martha McInnes/Revd David Dean
	6.00pm	Light for our Loss – a service of remembrance for those grieving at Christmas
Monday 9 December	7.30pm	Elders’ Meeting
Sunday 15 December	10.30am	Third Sunday of Advent– Jenny McDowell and Marion Williams Junior Church
	6.00pm	Towards the End of the Day – Canolfan
Tuesday 17 December	6.00pm	Community Carol Singing in Y Groes
Saturday 21 December	10.45-12.00	Christmas Charity Coffee morning – Canolfan
Sunday 22 December	10.30am	Fourth Sunday of Advent – Young people of Beulah
	6.00pm	Community Carol Service
Tuesday 24 December	5.00pm	Family-friendly Nativity Service let by our younger children
	11.15pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service
Wednesday 25 December	10.30am	Family service
Saturday 28 December	10.30am	Gathering for Prayer 10.15am – Rhiwbina Baptist Church
	6-9.00pm	Christmas Quiz in the Canolfan
Sunday 29 December	10.30am	Worship – Matt Jones Junior Church

Carol singing outside the church – Saturday 7, 14, 21 at 10am – all proceeds to charity

January 2025

Sunday 5 January	10.30am	Worship – Revd David Dean/Revd Martha McInnes Communion Service - Junior Church
Sunday 12 January	10.30am	Worship – Mr Geraint Richards Junior Church
Monday 13 January	7.30pm	Elders’ meeting
Tuesday 14 January	7.30 pm	Theology on Tap, Deri Inn
Sunday 19 January	10.30am	Worship – Revd James Hall Junior Church
Sunday 26 January	10.30am	Worship – Revd David Simpson Junior Church

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

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays	7.15 – 9.00pm (termtime)	Youth Fellowship
Mondays	9.30 – 12.00 (termtime)	Miss Tilley's Community Café
	2.00 – 3.00pm	Women's Fellowship
Tuesdays	9.30 – 12.00 (termtime)	Miss Tilley's Community Café
	9.30 – 11.00 (termtime)	Beulah Tots
Wednesdays	11.00 – 12.30 (termtime)	The Huddle
Thursdays	9.30 – 12.00 (termtime)	Caffi Dosbarth
Fridays and Saturdays	10.00 – 12.30	Whittaker Lounge Café

- Miss Tilley's closes for Christmas on 17 December and reopens on 6 January.