

CHURCH NEWS

Church News

Why no! I never thought other
than
That God is that great absence
In our lives, the empty silence
Within, the place where we go
Seeking, not in hope to
Arrive or find.
Via Negativa - R S Thomas

It is hard to believe that it is
April already and we are again
at the end of Lent.

Holy Week will commence with
our reflections on Monday,
Tuesday and Wednesday in the
Whittaker Lounge. We will be
again sharing communion in
the upper room in the Canolfan
on Maundy Thursday evening
and our younger members will
lead us in our Good Friday
service on 3 April. This will
follow our annual Walk of
Witness from Bethany Baptist
Church via All Saints. After the
service we will all share lunch at
Beulah.

We will be collecting for the
Ripple Effect charity over
Easter. This charity, based in

Bath, supports families in rural
Africa to learn more, grow more
and sell more, transforming their
lives while protecting their
environment. Families share
what they know and have with
their neighbours and wider
communities, so that for each
family the charity works with
directly, three more will benefit.
This is the ripple effect. Our
community garden in Beulah is
linked with a community garden
in rural Africa through the Ripple
Effect and you can twin your own
garden if you wish to. Check out
the Ripple Effect website for
more information.
We will also be collecting for
Christian Aid.

In the coming months we will
review all the work of Beulah at
our Annual General Meeting at
the end of April and again
request nominations for
Eldership. There are so many
people working hard for Beulah,
often behind the scenes, and
more help is always very much
needed to ensure all the things
we cherish can continue. Please
consider Eldership and talk to
existing Elders to find out more.

Anne



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

CONTACT

Ministers in the Pastorate:

Revd. Martha McInnes,
Revd. David Dean

Email: ministers@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Secretary: Email: secretary@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Treasurer: Email: treasurer@beulahurc.org.uk

Church Office: Email: bookings@beulahurc.org.uk



Space4U Food Collection

Different items please!

Thank you for your continued support for the Space4U food collection each month.

We have had a stock take and have found that the following items are currently needed:

Tinned chick peas, red kidney beans, sweetcorn, peas, tinned fruit and coffee.

Your donations of these items would be much appreciated. Items can be left in the porch of the church on the first Sunday of the month.

Jenny McDowell

Beulah Flower Fund

Please will you consider donating to the Beulah Flower Fund for flowers to be arranged by the team of arrangers and then given to those the "flower ladies" have been asked to take flowers to after the service.

We are in need in the next few months as the flowers fund has covered a few gaps this year already.

This will be much appreciated.

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.

Letter from the Manse

(Continued from Front page)

we have a 'feeling' which directs us towards God's ways. Sometimes we have a peace. And a few of us may hear a verbal direction, but I suspect many of us do not. So much of what we learn about faith comes from conversations with other followers of Jesus, either those living around us or those who have provided a recording of their thoughts--books, blogs, podcasts, etc. We listen to each other and we learn from each other.

Yet perhaps what is important in a conversation is not what is said, but the manner in which we speak and that we actually listen to each other. The poet, Maya Angelou, said, 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Knowing God loves you has made us feel valued and brought many of us to faith. Listening with kindness creates space for people to heal and grow.

So we return to those conversations with Jesus mentioned above. In them he spoke and he listened. He helped people feel seen and heard. So as people who follow the resurrected Christ, perhaps part of our role is to listen in the

manner in which he did--with an openness and care for all people so that they feel heard and valued. We can listen in our families, with our friends, and even with strangers. We can put our own needs aside for a few minutes and create an environment in which the other person is the most important person in the room. They will remember that because they *feel* we are present in the conversation for them.

As we face into the joy of Easter, perhaps conversation and listening can be a post-Easter discipline--one in which each day we can pause to listen to someone, where we put our needs to be seen and heard aside to see and hear one at least other person that day.

This is one way each one of us can follow Jesus and serve our neighbours. Let's give it a go with intention this month--being a gift to each other as we do--in the way Jesus was the gift to so many he encountered. In doing so perhaps we like Mary in the garden, will be surprised to encounter the risen Christ!

Peace,

Martha and David

Bible Study on 22 April in the Margaret Whitaker Lounge.
Continuing our exploration of the Gospel of Matthew.

Helping churches to care for creation together

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

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

EARTH DAY

22nd April 2026

The very first Earth Day was held on 22nd April 1970. Since then, over 1 billion people stand together on Earth Day each year to lift their voices, take action, and show their love for Planet Earth. The Earth Day website is really interesting and has a wealth of information on different environmental issues and how we can make a difference: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/>

This year the Earth Day theme is

Our Power, Our Planet

and the celebrations will be held from 18th – 22nd April so that families and communities can get involved.

There are lots of ideas on how to take part here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-hub/-take-action-section>

Be the Piece that Connects Us: Earth Day 2026 at the Senedd

Organised by Cymru Together, there will be an Earth Day event taking place in Cardiff called 'Be the Piece that Connects Us'. There will be a gathering on the steps of the Senedd on 22nd April at 11.00 am when a specially commissioned artwork will be revealed, and other activities during the day. If you can't get down to the Senedd on the day, you can still join the Cardiff action digitally.

Please speak to a member of the Eco Group for further details (Eileen, Ian, Mary and Marianne). Thank you.



Calendar for Holy Week in Beulah

Holy Week Prayers

Monday 30th, Tuesday 31st and Wednesday 1st at 7.30 pm in Whittaker Lounge.

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April

Service in Leaver Room led by Martha / David

Good Friday – 3rd April

Walk of witness with Bethany and All Saints (details TBC)
Service in Beulah at 12 noon – Dramatic interpretation of the events of Good Friday.
Bread and soup lunch in Canolfan

Easter Sunday – 5th April

Early morning service in the Canolfan garden 8.45 a.m.
Easter breakfast in Canolfan 9.00 a.m.
Easter morning Communion service – 10.30 a.m. Martha / David

Lunchtime Recitals

29th April at 1 pm

Mared Pugh-Evans harp

The concert on this Wednesday lunchtime, 29th April, will be a special one as the Kings official harpist comes to Beulah.

She came first in 2018 as a student now she is official harpist to the King!

In the past, we have always managed to ask the Prince of Wales harpist, as they were then known, to come to Beulah and have been thrilled at their playing. I am sure this will be no exception.

Tickets £8 on door

FIRE! FIRE!

Are you a duty elder or Sunday morning steward?

Do you act as a steward for other church events (e.g. Concerts, Rhiwbina Festival, Blessing the Crib)?

You are invited to attend one of 2 sessions which will be held on Sunday 26th April and Sunday 3rd May immediately after worship. Please attend whichever one is convenient for you. We will talk & walk through the responsibilities of elders and stewards in the event of a fire alarm.

Please do your best to attend. If neither date is suitable, please let me know and I will organise a catch-up at another time.

Marion Williams

City Hospice Fire Walk

Hello Beulah Friends.

On Wednesday 18th March I did a "Fire Walk" on behalf of City Hospice to help raise vital funds! I was unsure I would be allowed to do this event as I have quite bad feet and therefore couldn't ask if anyone would sponsor me. After doing last year's abseil I have decided to try and challenge myself every year with things quite out of my comfort zone – so watch out 2027! I would be so grateful if anyone would give me a donation – I'm hoping one of my children / grandchildren could set me up on a fundraising page but I am more than happy to take cash to the Hospice! Thank you for reading this!

Pat Agland

KIN REPORT

KIN the Beulah Charity Fund Raising Team has a number of links into events over Easter. Many of you will have seen the Easter Hampers being raffled to raise funds for Ripple Effect, and will be saving your loose change for the arms Bowl collection on Easter day. Not to mention the Good Friday bread & Soup lunch fund raising for Christian Aid and the Easter breakfast for The Samaritans.

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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In recent years we have based our fund raising around events, evolving away from the pattern of Summer and Winter church fairs. We have also been blessed with significant bequests. Last month from Mair Haywood's bequest we agreed to allocate £1000 each to Pedal Power and Space 4U, both groups well known to many in Beulah and doing valuable local community work.

KIN funds are now significantly depleted and we need to start planning some fund raising events. We would welcome ideas on ways/activities to fund raise and promise this doesn't mean you would have to be responsible for an event by contributing suggestions (unless you wish to help). Previously we have run bowls night, beetle drives, fashion shows, & a bread making competition. I was wondering about a film night, or games evening to put a few ideas out there. Finding imaginative ways to fund raise is vital to enable us to continue to financially help the many charities that approach us for support. We see KIN's function of outreach, awareness raising and fundraising it as an important area of our Christian faith in Beulah.

We are still keen for new members and thoughts on a clearer name for the group. Please speak to Marianne Barwise in regard to any of the above.

We are seeking a Chair of Premises Committee and recommendations for a Handyperson

Chris Wilkes has kindly served as Chair of our Premises Committee for a number of years and is looking to finish at the end of April. We are extremely grateful for everything Chris has done, both in his role as Chair of Premises and, even more so, also for all the maintenance and enhancement work Chris has undertaken within our buildings over many years – Diolch yn fawr iawn Chris!

We are therefore seeking a **Chair for our Premises Committee**. The Committee meets roughly every 2 months. The duties would be agreeing the agendas, chairing the meetings and providing an annual report for our AGM. You do not need to be a member of the Premises Committee to take on this role so, if you've ever been interested in the important work that goes on behind the scenes in Beulah looking after our buildings, please speak to either Barbara Rhys or Andrew Glanfield.

We are also looking for recommendations of a local **handyperson** who might be interested in an ongoing role supporting Beulah, potentially on a retainer basis. If you know anyone

who you've used, and who you think would be suitable for this opportunity – please again do let either Barbara Rhys or Andrew Glanfield know.

Editors' Note

The **copy date** for articles to be included in the **May 2026** edition of **Crossroads** is **Sunday 19th April**.

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



Editors:

Colin Grimes

Nigel Barwise

Email: **crossroads@beulahurc.org.uk**

Elders Meetings - February and March 2026

Elders had their monthly meeting in February on a dark and rainy night.

We discussed a number of vacancies amongst the eldership and wider church officer roles we are looking to fill currently. Colin Grimes is kindly moving across to the Communications area so that Nigel Barwise can concentrate on picking up as Treasurer from Barbara Rhys (we will need to approve that formally at our next Church Meeting). We are so grateful for everything everyone does for Beulah and know just how busy people are. We do need to find a new Caretaker, a new Chair for our Premises Committee and someone to look after the Secretary role whilst Anne James continues to recuperate and grow stronger.

Our theme for the meeting was 'Faith and Worship', led by Jenny McDowell. We discussed all the activities we undertake and support in this important area of our work and mission and areas for potential development such as widening the number of the Beulah family who might help lead parts of services, making our worship activities more inclusive and thinking about how we might involve Junior Church more in worship, amongst others.

We then turned our thoughts to planning for

Easter. In actual fact there was little to discuss here as plans are very much in place for Lent, Holy Week and the Easter weekend. Thank you to all who have worked behind the scenes to put these in place. It's great that we are once again able to hold our Lent studies joint with City URC and offer all the Easter services which mean so much to so many.

On a brighter night in March, Elders met again in fellowship.

We continued to consider a number of vacancies amongst church officers and other volunteer roles we are looking to fill. We've not had any volunteers for the Caretaker role, so we are going to look at a rota for locking up the Canolfan on weekdays. Please let Barbara Rhys know if you might be able to be part of this. We are also looking for a Chair for Premises Committee - please see the article on this elsewhere in this month's Crossroads, and recommendations for a handyperson to help keep our buildings in good order. We also have a proposal for the Secretary position, which we'll bring to the April AGM (& Church Meeting) for consideration and approval.

Our theme for the March meeting was 'Church Community', led by Ian McDowell. We discussed all the wonderful activities we undertake and support in this important area of our work and mission, including the Gardening Group, Men's Shed, Community Lunch, Whittaker Lounge, Concerts at the Crossroads, Women's Fellowship and Beulah Plays,

and areas for potential development such as wider advertising of our Canolfan garden to the community.

We then turned our thoughts to planning for our annual call for new serving elders. We will be seeking a number of Pastoral Elders as well as a number of Church Life Elders. The process will be the same as previous years, and it **only** works if we make nominations. Further details of the process and vacancies will be in Crossroads in due course and also given at our forthcoming AGM (& Church Meeting) on the 27th April.

We then discussed further our plans for our AGM. As in recent years, this will have a celebratory approach and all those who contribute to the various activities that make our life in Beulah so rich will be contacted to feed into our Annual Report booklet. On the night we'll hear brief presentations from our Church Officers, Church Life Elders and Ministers before sharing refreshments and fellowship.

Our next Elders Meeting will be in May, where our theme will be looking at our Pastoral work and we will also be checking in on the 2026 call for new serving elders.

Andrew Glanfield, Chair,
Elders Meeting

Beulah URC

Family Film Shows

Family favourites on the big screen

Suitable for all ages*



Saturday afternoons 3.00pm

18th April

Canolfan Beulah, Rhiwbina Village

FREE of charge

Interval ice cream No booking required

Call or text 07891 707039 for enquiries or further details

** Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult*

What's On in our Pastorate

This news page is where we celebrate everything that is happening in the churches of the URC Cardiff and Penarth Pastorate. Everyone is always welcome at any of the churches at any time but here we share information of events and services which may be of particular interest.

Holy Week and Easter

Sunday 29th March (Palm Sunday):

Combined Pastorate Sunday worship service at **City** - 10:30am. Tea and fellowship afterwards.

Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April:

Holy week prayers at **Beulah** each evening at 7.30pm in the Whittaker Lounge.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April:

7.30pm communion service at **Beulah** in the upper room of Canolfan

7.30pm service at **Canton Uniting Church**

Good Friday 3rd April:

10.30 service at **City URC** led by Martha

12.00 service at **Beulah** with a dramatic interpretation of the story followed by lunch

Easter Sunday 5th April:

08.45 Early morning service in the garden at **Beulah** followed by Easter Breakfast

10.30: Family Worship with communion at **Beulah**

10:30am Easter Sunday communion service at **City**

At City URC Church (Windsor Place CF10 3BZ)

Sunday 19 April

City URC walk and picnic.

After a short 10:30am worship service at City, everyone will be making their way to the Llanishen Reservoirs - from about 11:30am we will meet for tea and a discussion in a room alongside the cafe, and then those who would like to will take a walk around the lakes and have a picnic lunch together. Please bring your own picnic. Anyone who does not want to walk could have lunch at the cafe! Anyone from the Pastorate who would like to join us would be very welcome! Please could you let us know if you are thinking of joining us: secretary@cityurc.org.uk

[uk](mailto:secretary@cityurc.org.uk)

At Canton Uniting Church (Theobald Rd, Canton CF5 1QL)

Concerts

26th April 6pm

Richard Boothby with Andrew Wilson-Dickson, a lecture recital on Abel and Gainsborough.

3rd May 3pm

Voices & Strings; J S Bach including Matthäus passion BWV244; Strauss and others.

Supporting the CUC building fund.

At Beulah (Beulah Road, Rhiwbina CF14 6LT)

Saturday 18th April 3pm

Beulah URC Family Film Show in Canolfan Beulah:

Family favourites on the big screen, suitable for all ages.

FREE of charge, Interval ice cream provided. No booking required. Call or text 07891 707039 for enquiries or further detail.

Sunday 26th April 12.00pm

Community Meal in Canolfan

Wednesday April 22nd at 6.30pm

Bible Study in the Whittaker Lounge. David and Martha are leading us in an exploration of Matthew's gospel.

Elders and Stewards Rota, April and May 2026

	Elder on duty & Stewards (S)	Vestry prayer	Communion		
			Minister's right	Minister's left	Preparation
			(P = Prayer)		
2nd April Communion Maundy Thursday	Colin Grimes (DE) Kaye Mundy (S)	N/A	Gaynor Rees Kate Hampson	Secretary Gaynor Rees (P)	Gaynor Rees
3rd April Good Friday	Marianne Barwise (DE) Helen Harries (S) Nigel Barwise (S)	N/A			
5th April Communion Easter Sunday	Jenny McDowell (DE) Ann Grimes (S) Audrey Budding (S)	Andrew Glanfield	Keirsten Eales Andrew Glanfield Jenny McDowell	Secretary Mary Bidnell (P) Mark Stephens	Keirsten Eales
12th April	Bev Hampson (DE) Richard Sweetnam (S) Helen Harries (S)	Marianne Barwise			
19th April	Andrew Glanfield (DE) Hollie Thomas (S) Viv Morgan (S)	Mark Stephens			
26th April	Kate Hampson (DE) Fleur Richards (S) Kaye Mundy (S)	Mary Bidnell			
3rd May Communion	Geraint Richards (DE) Fleur Richards (S) Hollie Thomas (S)	Jenny McDowell	Mark Stephens Mary Bidnell	Secretary Nigel Barwise (P)	Mark Stephens
10th May	Nigel Barwise (DE) Ann Grimes (S) Cathy Wales (S)	Ian McDowell			
17th May	Keirsten Eales (DE) Mary Edwards (S) Barbara Clift (S)	Kate Hampson			
24th May	Jonathan Grimes (DE) Norman Henderson (S) June Henderson (S)	Andrew Glanfield			
31st May	Arlene Ramasut (DE) Denise Dickman (S) Giles Ballisat (S)	Kiersten Eales			

AV, Reader, Intercessions, Flower Rotas

Date	AV	Reader	Intercessions	Flowers	Arranger
April					
2nd	Nigel Barwise	Richard Sweetnam	-	Flower Fund	Flower Fund
3rd	Andrew Glanfield	Brenda Cheer	-	Flower Fund	Flower Fund
5th	Ian McDowell	Vicki Grimes	Brenda Cheer	EASTER	Beverley & Karen
12th	Richard Sweetnam	Arlene Ramasut	Liz Kidd	Lorraine Larcombe	Karen
19th	Nigel Barwise	Andy Wales	Eco Group	Lorraine Larcombe	Karen
26th	James Hall	Mary Bidnell	Rev'd David Simpson	tba	Karen
May					
3rd	Andy Wales	Jonathan Grimes	Giles Ballisat	Jill & Peter Ferdinando	Jill
10th	Andrew Glanfield	June Henderson	Jenny McDowell & Marion Williams	Marianne & Nigel	Marianne
17th	Ian McDowell	Giles Ballisat	Christian Aid	Anne & Frank Rees	tba
24th	Richard Sweetnam	Helen Harries	Neil Kidd	tba	tba
31st	Nigel Barwise	Ruth Williams	Roger Martin	Bev & Ian Hampson	tba

Operation Christmas Child

Dear Mr Grimes and the Fellowship at Beulah United Reform Church,

My name is Suzanne and I am your local Church Connect Volunteer with Operation Christmas Child (OCC). I am writing to say "Thank You" for your generous donation of 65 shoeboxes last December and for being part of something amazing!

As a result of the partnership of churches like yours, OCC in the United Kingdom sent an amazing 202,099 gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world, including over 10,000 from Wales. That is part of a global total of 12.2 million shoeboxes sent from the UK and other partnering countries to hurting children in over 100 countries worldwide. Not only will so many children in poverty stricken and war-torn communities receive these precious gifts, but where appropriate, their local churches will tell the children the good news about Jesus and offer them the chance to learn more about him through The Greatest Journey follow-up programme.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you and Beulah

URC and trust that your involvement with Operation Christmas Child will continue to be a blessing to you and your church in the coming year. It is a great blessing to serve alongside you, as part of the OCC volunteer team and I am here to support you in any way I can, be through supplying resources, meeting with members of your church, giving presentations etc...

Please note that the inclusion of soap in shoeboxes has led to increased customs challenges and logistical hurdles. As a result, we are actively discussing a phase-out approach. While these conversations are ongoing, we encourage churches to refrain from purchasing any types of soaps at this stage. Please

keep your eyes open for email updates and social media announcements in the coming weeks for further guidance.

I would love to invite you to join our OCC Project Leader Facebook group where you can meet with others leading the project in the church, school or group and share ideas. The link is:

www.facebook.com/groups/OCCUKProjectLeader

Once again, thank you so much for your generous support and please contact me if I can be of any help in the future.

Warmest regards,

Suzanne





Beulah United Reformed Church

April 2026

All welcome

Thursday 2 April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service – Canolfan Revd Martha McInnes / Revd David Dean
Friday 3 April	9.30am 12.00 noon	Walk of Witness, meet at Bethany Baptist Good Friday Service – Young people Followed by lunch in the Canolfan
Sunday 5 April	8.45am 10.30am 7.15pm	Martha / David - Worship in the Garden followed by Easter breakfast Easter Communion - Revd Martha McInnes / Revd David Dean B Wise
Sunday 12 April	10.30am	Worship - Mr Geraint Richards Junior Church
Tuesday 14 April	7.30pm	Theology on Tap, Deri Inn
Saturday 18 April	3.00pm	Family film
Sunday 19 April	10.30am	Worship – Eco Group Junior Church
Weds 22 April	6.30pm	Bible Study in the Whittaker Lounge. Continuing our exploration of the Gospel of Matthew.
Sunday 26 April	10.30am 12.00 noon	Worship – Revd David Simpson Junior Church Community Lunch - Canolfan

Regular Weekly Activities

Sundays	7.15 – 9.00pm (termtime)	Youth Fellowship
Mondays	9.30 – 12.00 (termtime) 2.00 – 3.00pm	Miss Tilleys Community Café Women’s Fellowship
Tuesdays	9.30 – 12.00 (termtime) 9.30 – 11.00 (termtime)	Miss Tilleys Community Café 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