

BEULAH CHRONICLE

The newsletter of:

Beulah Community Church

In association with the Baptist Union of Great Britain
and the United Reformed Church

www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk

September 2022 – No 95

Calendar

Sunday 4th Sept Service led by Rev Brian Davison including Communion

Sunday 11th Sept Service led by Graham Lindley

Sunday 18th Sept Service led by Rev Brian Davison

Sunday 25th Sept Service led by John Fidler

Sunday 2nd Oct Service led by Phil Jump including Communion.

Our services will be live via zoom. The ID you need for any of Beulah's services is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315.



Prayers Among our fellowship:

Wynne, Bob and Sylvia; Ian and Sharon Whitehead; June Brain; Vera, Mary Norris and all in care homes/isolated. Ruth Beattie. Brian and Clare after their house move and the new post for Clare.



God of all, with alarm and concern we bring before you the military intervention in Ukraine. In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we lament the use of armed force. We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war. We pray comfort for those who grieve and those who are fearful. Hear our longing that leaders and nations will honour the worth of all people by having the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue. May all our human failings be transformed by your wonderful grace and goodness. We ask this in the name of Christ, the author of peace and sustainer of Creation. Amen.

Messages from the Leaders:

Brian is due a sabbatical of 3 months but given that he has only just arrived, he will be splitting this and just taking a month in October at the moment. That is why Phil Jump will be preaching at the start of October.

Thanks to Steve for re-sealing the hall floor and for painting jobs, and to Ian for contacting contractors after a recent fall of plaster in the church

Thank you for recent donations for flowers from Jane and Mary.

Offertory Envelopes – For those that require offertory envelopes for 2023 please let Jane know, so that she can calculate how many need to be ordered.

***"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."
(1 Cor 3:6 NIV)***

Dear Friends,

I think the weather we are having might be described as "variable"!! We had to pack in 29 degrees heat, and the garden getting drier and dryer. They threatened rain on moving day, (not great for the cardboard boxes, especially as the shed contents were in boxes on the patio, the shed being in pieces). But it didn't happen. We arrived in Peterborough to discover it had been even drier, every grass verge and our lawn brown and dusty. The removers piled a few boxes outside temporarily, but when they were nearly finished there were a few spots of rain. We'd just got them into the hallway when the heavens opened! A washing-up bowl outside in the garden was soon three quarters full, - fortunately there was a shed already here, so the boxes of garden stuff were safely under cover.

That was last Tuesday, and yesterday as I was preparing to come back up north, I noticed the grass is turning green again. But there are lots of empty patches where the grass had died completely, or where it had been mainly moss, and the moss had been filled and raked away for us.

I'll have to get a box of seed - you know the thing - with a picture on the front of the perfect bowling green that should result from it's use ☺. After loosening the surface and sprinkling the seed, all I can do is keep watering and wait. I've done it many times before when children have worm bare patches on the lawn.

The waiting is the hardest part: I can't see what is happening underground, or know whether the seeds will germinate sooner or later than the time on the box. For all I know, it could be a duff packet! If I try to investigate what's happening, dig up a bit to see if there's roots forming, I'll only destroy it. All I can do is to take care of the surface, to keep it very lightly watered and wait to see how it turns out.

There's an interesting paradox to growing anything in a garden, - it won't happen on its own - without the hard graft, and the tender regular care, but on the other hand you can't make it happen either - you can only provide the best conditions and wait patiently. Once the seed has germinated the end result will depend on the care of the young seedlings, regular watering & feeding, and in the case of the lawn, regular mowing to encourage branching.

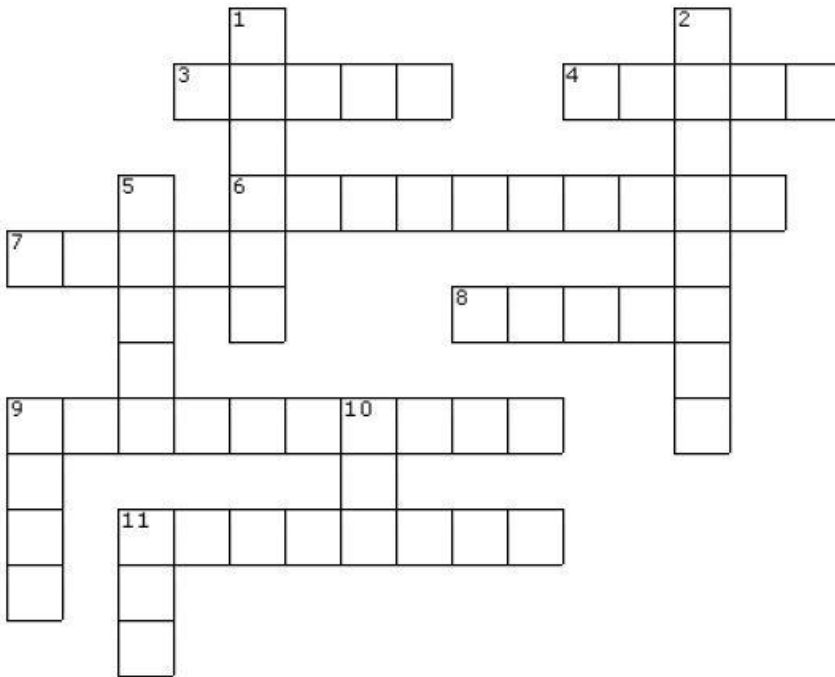
God's work is similar - as a church we all work very hard for the growth of the Kingdom of God. To a greater or lesser extent we are preparing the ground and sowing seed in many children and young people, their families, adults who come into the church for various activities, our neighbours, and the community at large. We long to see results, but we can't see what is happening beneath the surface, where God's seed is germinating, where the Holy Spirit has gone ahead of us to prepare the ground.

What we do know is that God's seed is not a duff packet, his word will not return empty. If we try to dig around and see if there are roots forming we may do more harm than good. All we can do is to seek and to follow the seed maker's instructions, care for new shoots as they appear, and take proper regular care of the existing plants, to see they continue to grow and blossom. (This includes taking care of ourselves - we all need feeding, watering and occasionally pruning).

Just like in the garden we cannot make things happen, that is God's work, but he's given us the task of creating the right conditions sowing the seeds and tending the growth. (All of us are involved in this work in one way or another). My Uncle had a favourite saying for when the going is tough, or results are a long while in coming: "Keep on keeping on". (I later discovered that Winston Churchill had another version I won't repeat here). We must keep on sowing seed, and applying the fertile mixture of prayer, hard work, love, patience and faith, trusting that God is at work unseen, preparing to grow beautiful things.

Love in Our Lord

Brian



ACROSS

- 3 For where your treasure is, there your ___ will be also
- 4 Do not throw your pearls before ___
- 6 They will beat their swords into ___ and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore
- 7 ___ goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall
- 8 A land flowing with milk and ___
- 9 Then you will know the truth,

and the truth will

- 11 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, ___ toward men

DOWN

- 1 Am I my brother's ___?
- 2 Ask, and it shall be ___
- 5 You are the ___ of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden
- 9 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of ___
- 10 The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are ___
- 11 You cannot serve both ___ and money

Crossword Puzzle: Famous Quotes



Word Search, Adam's Wife
 Abel, Adam, Cain, Covered, Eat, Eden, Female, Fig leaf, First, Fruit, Garden, Naked, Serpent, Seth, Sin

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