

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

January 2022 – No 85

Calendar

- Sunday 9th Jan** Service led by Dorothy Kendrick
- Sunday 16th Jan** Service led by Rev Brian Davison
- Sunday 23rd Jan** Service led by Sammy Spaine
- Sunday 30th Jan** Service led by Rev John Prior
- Sunday 6th Feb** Service led by Judith Haughton followed by 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.

Among our fellowship:

Pray especially for Vera after the Coppice Care home implemented a 28-day lockdown after Covid cases before Christmas. Pray for all the residents in care homes or hospitals where similar measures are in place.

Pray for Joan and her next eye appointment on the 18th January; for Wynne; for Ian Wh; for Bob ; for Phil T; for Carol waiting for news about the court case; for Faith

Congratulations to Matthew Cheetham and Abigail Cooper on their marriage on Dec 29th.

Congratulations too to Gemma Wilkinson on the successful completion of her PhD. What a great achievement! Dr Wilkinson is now a Research Fellow at the Neuroscience and Mental Health Research Institute, Cardiff University, investigating Timothy Syndrome and the effect of the psychiatric risk gene CACNA1C on the brain.

Congratulations to Azeena on obtaining a job as a Finance Assistant with a local company in Hollinwood- prayers answered!

Messages from the Leaders:

Thank you to Wynne for playing the organ for us regularly and especially for the Carol Service. It was great to have the Pentecostal Church join us and witness their exuberance in praising God. Thank you to Ian who attended the New Year's Eve service they held at Beulah to help them with the alarm etc- he said it was a joy to behold and their Hallelujahs' rang out to the neighbouring streets! What a witness!

After a meeting with the Leadership team, the Rev Brian Davison will be coming to preach at Beulah on Sunday 16th January with a view to becoming a part time Minister with us. After the service there will be a chance to chat to Brian and ask any questions you have- refreshments will be provided. The congregation meeting, which had been calendared for that day is postponed to the following Sunday (23rd Jan) so that there is time to pray about the decision we have to make, and listen to what God is saying to us. The meeting will include a formal vote on whether to call Brian to the role at Beulah. Please do try to hear him on the 16th and to attend the meeting on the 23rd so that as many as possible are involved in the decision.

Update from Tek Ura, Albania from Dan and Annie Dupree:

Our new Refugee Pilot Project

“As many of you are aware, Tek Ura is situated in an area with extreme poverty, but by God’s grace we have seen signs of a community healing and coming together. A church has emerged and we have seen real fruit to our work amidst the challenges. There are lots of things we would value your prayers for as God open’s doors into new areas or expand existing ones. This month, we would welcome your prayers as we seek to respond to the significant numbers of new migrants arriving in Tirana, in particularly from Afghanistan (you may have seen this on the BBC news recently) Our centre is situated a stone’s throw away from the National Refugee Centre in Tirana. Many families arriving in Tirana have left their countries of origin due to violence, deprivation and conflict, and most didn’t initially aim to travel to Albania, but have now found themselves in our community.

In recent weeks we have agreed a contract with the Albanian Ministry for the Interior to do a pilot project to support a group of families to make the transition to life in our neighbourhood. This means that between November and Feb 2022 we will be providing an Albanian teacher and daily Albanian lessons, support with school integration and help to connect with employment and social opportunities.”

- Please pray for Genta our Albanian teacher and Roxhers our social worker who is coordinating the project.
- Pray for wisdom as we look to respond to migrants coming to our church and to our centre for support. Our church at Tek Ura already includes Refugee and migrant families - and it’s been really encouraging to see how they have responded positively to welcoming the strangers.
- Pray for our relationship with the State, stakeholders and other Albanian partners working in this area. We are keen not to duplicate work.
- Pray for clarity as we seek to listen to God and research before we respond - the influx is not something we had planned for, but equally a trend that looks like it will continue.
- Pray particularly for our response to children as education is a key element for refugee children. Also, for wisdom as we consider how best to respond by supporting families and children to get the support they need to continue schooling.

Since this update we have heard that Tek Ura have been asked to extend their work to 20 adults and 12 children this year.

The Pandemic prayer from the URC:

Oh dear God,
This keeps going. It ends, it spirals, it ends, something new is revealed.
People are welcomed, people are refused. We travel, we cancel.
We hope, hope is dashed, we hope, we dig for will-power.
How can we find you in the midst of all of this?
Oh dear God, we don’t have to search.
In the midst is where you always have been and are still.
We summon our stretched energy to praise you.
Give us grace beyond our experience and belief to experience energy and new hope.
We pray for ourselves and each other to live these days as well as we can, no matter their shape.

We praise you and commit to Hope.
Amen

Pray too for Joy Ransom in Nepal and read her latest update on our website: www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk

Her account of the provision of blankets illustrates what a difference the things we take for granted can make to poor communities. The teacher who supervises the hostel students said, "You are like a bridge. You heard of our need, and you made it happen. Today you brought blankets over the bridge and gave us what we most needed." What a privilege to be in the right place to be a bridge. And to bring hope to students in a tiny village in the rural hills of mid Nepal from knowing that others care about them. I wish you every blessing for the coming year. Read the full story on the website.

She asks us to pray:

- for the students who have lost so much of their education, and for the teachers to know how to help.
- that the two IT labs planned for this spring will be completed easily and will be well used.
- that our plans to provide further IT labs in rural schools will soon be realised.
- that the hope and joy we have in the Saviour's birth would be evident in all we do.



The Bible conversations with Graham Tarn continue on a Tues eve. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85628360477?pwd=VzIPVEIDYW9BUDh0bmhCOWE0ZVRydz09>

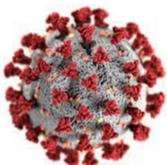
Meeting ID: 856 2836 0477

Passcode: 694220

Date for your diary: 29th January 2022 – Missional Partnership meeting at Shaw URC covering an introduction to the URC framework and exploring our missional partnership. Time to be confirmed.

23rd Jan 2022 – AHC Service of Christian Unity to be held at St Margaret's C of E Church, Chapel Road at 3pm

If you have anything of interest for the newsletter, please email to iain@wilkinsonclan.co.uk



COVID-19 - the Leaders are monitoring Covid guidance for churches, which currently advises having good ventilation; good hygiene; wearing masks when moving around; maintaining social distance and singing at a low volume.

As the doors will be open it might be a good idea to wear layers in this colder weather.

Charity – If anyone has a donation for the Leprosy Mission can you please give it to Jane at your earliest convenience,

as we have some money to send.



Offertory Envelopes – New envelopes for 2022 will be distributed over the next couple of weeks in church. Please let Jane know if you no longer require envelopes and also if you currently do not have them but would like them.

Dear Friends

This time last year we sent out our usual pre-Christmas mailing, reflecting on an unprecedented year, yet anticipating a return to a degree of normality in the months ahead. In reality we have continued to navigate through uncertainty and challenge and remain far from clear about what the coming year holds in store.

This has not been easy for any of us, either in the day to day realities of family life, work and other responsibilities, or as local congregations. Many have had to play our part in local church life over and above these shared challenges, and often in a context of additional stress and uncertainty. More than anything, as the year comes to an end, this is a moment to recognise what this has demanded of us, and to draw strength from knowing that we have sought to be faithful, even if we have not always managed to do things as we might have wished.

It has been truly inspirational to see the ways in which our North Western Baptist community has risen to these new challenges, both in supporting each other and also in reaching out to those in need within the wider community. Again, we may not have managed to maintain everything or fulfil every aspiration, but our hope is that during this season of Advent and Christmas, you can take time to recognise and celebrate what you have been able to accomplish. This will often have been at a cost, and we hope too that there is space to recognise that and not to expect too much of one another as we continue to face difficult times.

As an NWBA team, we have continued to seek to support churches, working in partnership with our colleagues at Baptist House, Didcot to provide advice, guidance and also practical resources, particularly for those who are now seeking to work more online. We have been grateful for the many positive comments we have had in response to our Sunday Sermons, online reflections and other resources – we are glad you have found them helpful.

As we look to the year ahead, we have been drawn to the theme “Hold the Light”. You may remember that early in 2021 we produced a card “Thank you for holding the light” – over 2000 of these were sent by members of our NWBA community to key workers across the region. It was good to be able to express our appreciation to those who, at the time, were holding the light for so many through their sterling efforts to maintain our essential services.

Perhaps we are now at a moment to consider what this message says to us as the people of God and those described in our Scriptures as the Body of Christ. Paul, writing to the church in Philippi, encourages them to remain rooted in Christ as they “shine like stars” and “hold fast to the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16). The uncertainty and concern that we face is an experience shared across our communities. Yet we are those who believe in an unchanging God who has sustained his people through centuries of trial and struggle, we have a message of hope and faithfulness to celebrate and share.

As we look towards 2022, the Advent message of “being ready” is particularly poignant. As an Association, we are deliberately not seeking to make major plans or launch new initiatives. We sense that this is more a season to seek to stand together, support one another and be open to God’s leading as we seek to Hold the Light together.

May the love of God shine through all of our endeavours in these uncertain days.

With warmest wishes

The NWBA Team

