



# 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](http://www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk)

Nov/Dec 2023 – No 104

### Calendar



- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November Service led by the Leaders
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November Service led by John Fidler:
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Joint service at Macedonia – starting at 10.30 a.m.  
First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Service led by Rev Ruth Wollaston
- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service – jointly with the Nigerian Fellowship at  
10.30 a.m. with refreshments after the service
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Service including your favourite carols and readings
- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December TBC

**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**

Join in the Oldham and Tameside Missional Partnership Advent services each Wednesday in December on ZOOM at 7.30 and lasting no more than 40 minutes:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec God’s passion, our yielding 13<sup>th</sup> Dec History divided and paradox
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Reconciliation, Remembrance and Hope
- Topic: OMTF Advent 2023

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81184413599> Meeting ID: 811 8441 3599



Dear friends,

First of all, may I thank you all for your prayers at this time of illness and loss, for me and for all the family. Indeed, for your prayers throughout this year, which has had more than the usual share of pain and difficulty.

At times like these, (especially with skin troubles and rashes breaking out all over) people sometime turn to the book of Job for answers. Indeed, when I was a student a friend of mine found a crack in the handlebars of his bike, and tried to repair it with Sellotape. The inevitable happened, they broke and he ended up faceplanting the tarmac and visiting casualty. When he got back to the hall of residence, he began to read Job, looking for answers, and when he told me all about it, I suggested there was a simpler explanation that eternally significant goings on in the heavens – Sellotape doesn't fix metal fatigue!!!

Job's situation was very different to most of ours. He was an exemplary worshipper whose devotion stood out, and also a rich and successful man. His troubles were allowed so that Satan could see he loved God for who he was, not for what he had, and would remain faithful no matter what. – Like the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who believed God could save them, but would not worship the King even if he did not.

For us, most of the time, our troubles are part of the fallen world we live in, where death is defeated on the cross, but that victory comes into play in our eternal destiny, not the temporal world. Where God can heal, but even that is only a running repair on a body destined to be replaced by the resurrection body, and more often we receive the answer he gave Paul – “My grace is sufficient for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor 12:9). – More of that later on.

There are some hints in Job though, about how to respond: He doesn't blame God, he's not angry with God (Although the psalms give plenty examples of people angry with God, and how he allows that to be vented before responding in gentleness – he can take it). When he asks why, God shows him why he could not possibly understand the answer. In Job 38 God speaks, asking Job if he can make the sun rise, if he formed the mountains – of course not! Then how can he understand the answer, let alone Judge God's plans and actions? Sometimes the answer “God knows” is used in exasperation, when we don't know the answer to something – but it's really a statement of faith – He knows, we could not possibly understand. A dear friend, now in Glory, used to say of every situation, every setback “God is bigger than this” – and that is what God told Job.

**BUT THERE'S MORE!!**

God doesn't leave us lost, wondering, frustrated, helpless. We saw his answer to Paul earlier. That answer begins with him becoming one of us, with us, living in our shoes. The Lord Jesus fully God, fully human, given the name “Immanuel, God with us” at his birth, as well as “Jesus, Saviour.”

And as we celebrate his birth, enjoy thinking about the angels, the stable, the shepherds, all the usual lovely things. The décor, the light in the darkness, the familiar carols.

But remember too why he came – Not only to die on the cross for our sins, but to be with us. To show us the true nature of God expressed in human character. To show he is with us, he knows, he understands. Just before he ascended he promised “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” He entered and left this world with the promise “God with us.” Hebrews tells us “<sup>5</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.”.

This Christmas, and in the coming year, whenever we cannot understand and say “God knows” let it be a statement of faith, that God is bigger than this, and that he is with us in it. He knows, he understands, he rules on high and on earth.

Have a truly blessed Christmas  
Love in Our Lord  
Brian

### Prayers Among our fellowship:

Brian and family on the death of his mother also Brian is still struggling with a parasite infection and has now been referred to a tropical diseases' specialist.

Lucy; Wynne, with multiple medical appointments; Bob and Sylvia Beattie; Phil; Elaine Joynes; Carol, who is struggling with arthritis and some issues at her new home: Margaret Hopwood struggling with sciatica (and Janet also recovering from sciatica) ; Elaine Everett now in a care home in Moorside. All those who are housebound or not well enough to come including Mary Howarth; Irene Binns; Mary Norris; Enid Hopkinson.



Please pray for the Pre School and for a resolution to some issues there.

Happy birthday to all who have celebrated birthdays recently and especially to Steve and Delia, who had "big birthdays!"

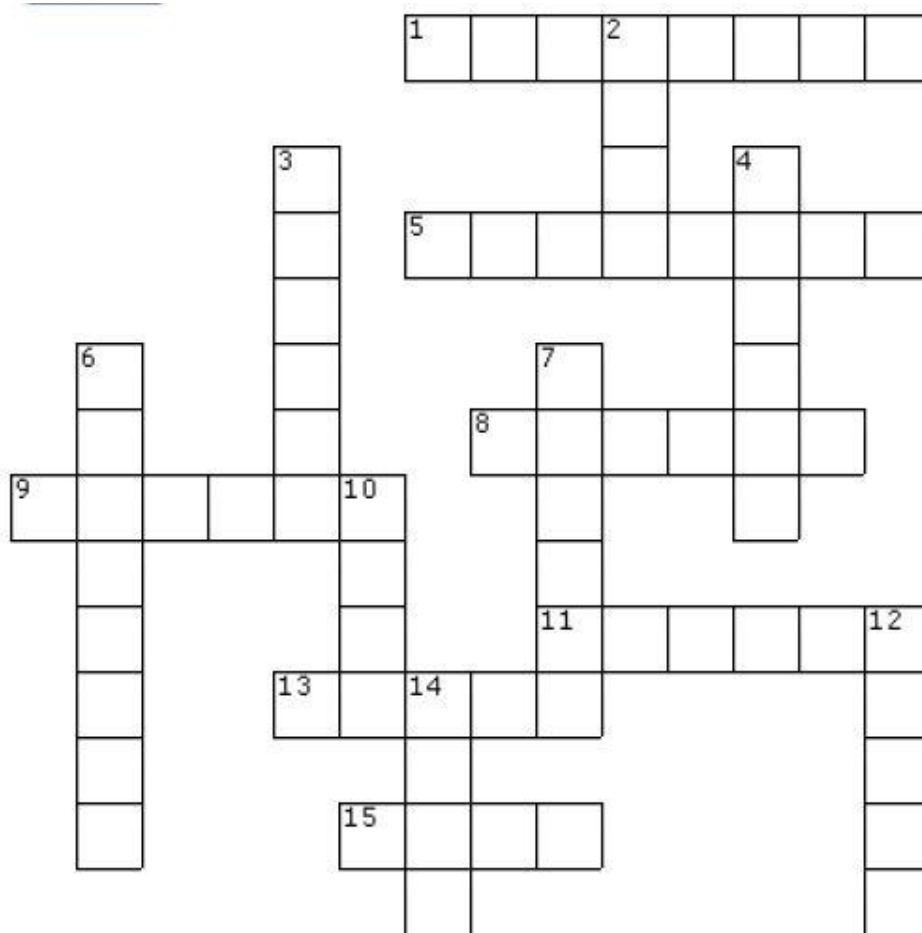
"Before you criticise anyone you should walk a mile in their shoes. Then, when you criticise, you're a mile away and you have their shoes" 😊😄

### News from the Leaders

Thank you to everyone for all the myriad of jobs that have been done over the last few weeks. Especial thanks to Ian for doing the PAT testing of all appliances and for overseeing the regular maintenance work, which has included work on the Alarm system, which needs to be upgraded, and some roofing issues at the Manse.

We have been planning some activities to spread the real hope of Christmas – if you want to share any ideas do speak to any of the Leaders.





### ACROSS

- 1 O come, all ye  
 \_\_\_  
 5 Gifts  
 8 \_\_\_ get  
 togethers  
 9 \_\_\_ night, holy  
 night ...  
 11 Tree decorations  
 13 We celebrate  
 His birth  
 15 Present  
 decorations

### DOWN

- 2 What Santa  
 brings  
 3 Used to tie a  
 present  
 4 Heavenly beings  
 6 Dasher,  
 Dancer, etc.  
 7 Christmas  
 songs  
 10 Place for lights  
 and ornaments  
 12 Jolly old St. Nick  
 14 Makes a white  
 Christmas

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