

# 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)

December 2022 / January 2023 – No 97

### Calendar

- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec** The Vilela family, our link missionaries in Mozambique, will be with us. Please make them feel welcome and hear about the work they do. We will be providing lunch after the service for anyone who can join us- likely to be potato pie with cakes for dessert!
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec** 11 am Service led by Rev Brian Davison  
2 p.m. joint carol service with the Nigerian fellowship with refreshments afterwards. Please come and make this a joyful occasion!
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec** Christmas day service via Zoom- led by Brian.
- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan** Celebrate the start of 2023 with the normal service at Beulah- Brian will be leading it, but he will be doing so remotely!
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan** Service to be advised
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan** 11 am Service led by Rev Brian Davison  
3 pm Association of Hollinwood Churches service of Christian unity at Beulah. Please try and attend to share worship with our neighbouring churches in Hollinwood.



**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.**



### Thanks to the following:

Julie, Elaine and Brian for erecting and decorating the Christmas tree. All those who have volunteered to help with the warm space and who have done a wonderful job in cleaning and sorting out the Primary. Those who have given money for flowers.

Dear Friends,

As I look out of my window it is cold and misty, the trees will soon be bare, the grass has stopped growing, the plants have died off, it's a damp that goes through you, and it gets dark just after four the afternoon. As time passes it will get colder, the nights longer, until in the middle of winter it gets dark around three, and this season is set to last about 6 months before spring is officially here. – Good reasons to be gloomy.....

And Yet.....

And yet as they prepare to fall, the leaves turn the most beautiful colours – reds, yellows, and shades of orange, making autumn perhaps the most beautiful season of the year. There is beauty in the dying leaves. And they fall filled with goodness that over winter will rot into the ground restoring nutrients, ready to feed the trees and flowers bursting into new life in the spring. The flowers too will be back – some are perennials and return year after year, The others rot, and feed the new flowers growing next year. Autumn, or “fall” as the Americans call it, is a time of unseen restoration, preparation for a burst of new life in the spring. It's cold and misty, and yet, in the cold mist, a spider's web glistens with the tiny drops of dew on it, a thing of true



beauty. I have some lovely photos over the years, mainly of spider's webs on the washing line. There is beauty seen only in the mist and frost.

Even the dark nights can hold beauty; the other night was a clear moonlit night and our white rose, which is still in flower, looked radiant in the moonlight – glorious beauty in the darkness.

And as the weather gets colder and the nights longer here, in the southern hemisphere it is spring, all we look forward to happening for them right now.

And in the middle of winter, the darkest week, we remember especially that God is With Us. He saw his beautiful world fall to sin, he saw darkness and despair, and he planned, at just the right time, to come among us, be vulnerable like the rest of us, experience all that humans experience, so that we know we are not alone, we are understood, we are loved. And then to die for us and rise for us, one week encapsulating the joyful entry to Jerusalem, betrayal, death, then resurrection – all the seasons of life in one short week, to make the way for us to know peace that passes all understanding, peace with God and God with us, always.

There is beauty in the fallen leaves, in the mist, in snow when it comes, there is hope in the reliable pattern of the seasons, the sun in the other hemisphere, and in the God who made all of this, and who came to earth to show he is with us.

This Christmas let us be channels of that joy, that love, that hope, that kindness, celebrating by shining as lights in the darkness.

Love in Our Lord

Brian

### **Prayers Among our fellowship:**

Please remember in prayer Wendy, Vaughan, Kate and Bethany after the death of Barbara. She has been such a long-standing member of our congregation- over 40 years at Beulah since the start of the Partnership agreement, and 30+ years at Hollinwood Congregational Church before that. She radiated love and care and was so welcoming to any visitors and other members of the congregation- always willing to offer hospitality to people, whether that was to visiting or new Ministers or hosting Bible study evenings for such a long time. Her apple pies were legendary and were always the first thing to go at the Saturday café sessions! She was so willing to do any jobs, even when her health was not so good. We will all so miss her and her smile but know she is at peace now and was such a faithful servant of Christ. We send our love to Wendy in particular and know how difficult the last few weeks have been.

Pray also for Vera who is still in the Royal Oldham Hospital after a fall at the Coppice Care home- she has several fractures and has been quite agitated. Pray for all the friends of Joan who are grieving her death and having to sort out her affairs and Elaine, Alison and family on the death of our retired former minister Rev David Joynes.

Pray for Anna Harding, after a hospital stay this last week after getting really dehydrated after a nasty virus. Please also pray for Bob Beattie.



### **The Vilela Family**

The Vilela family, our link missionaries in Mozambique, will be with us for church service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Liz and Sergio are located in Beira, Mozambique. They are working alongside the Mozambican Baptist Convention helping to build capacity in mission training for nationals and community preschool projects. Liz and Sergio met in Brazil whilst Sergio was a mission worker with YWAM. After marrying, they worked in Brazil for a year before being called to work in England. They spent three years as youth pastors at Saffron Walden Baptist Church, which is now their sending church. Liz and Sergio had always felt a call to mission overseas, so when their time at their church ended, they sought opportunities to work with BMS. They moved to Mozambique in 2013. They have two children, Chloe and Joshua.

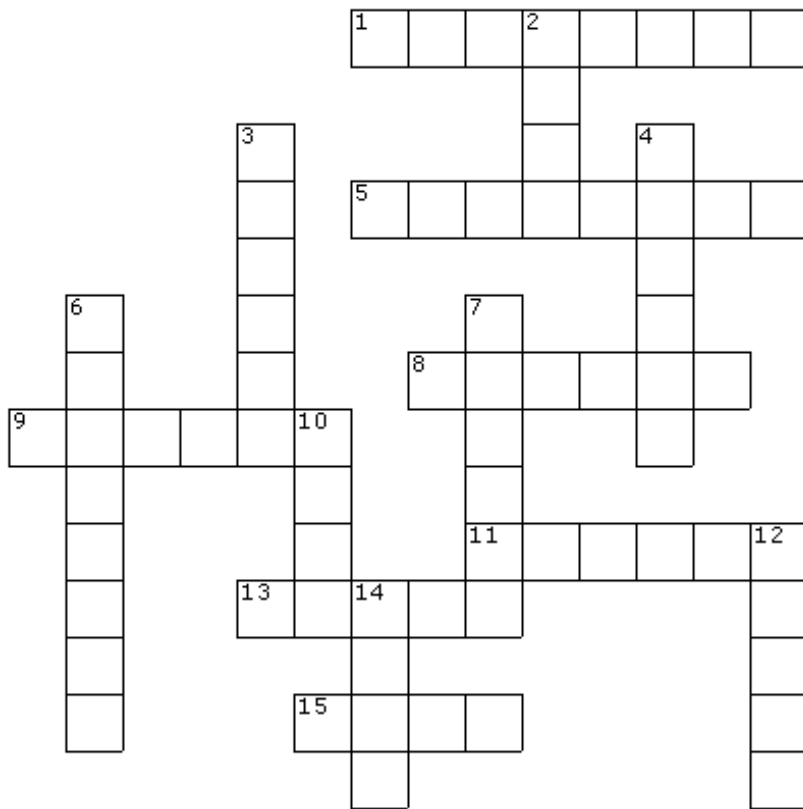
Latest newsletter for the Vilela family is attached to this Beulah Chronicle.

For more information on their work in Mozambique follow the link below:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/people/liz-and-sergio-vilela/>







**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

Crossword Puzzle: Christmas



**Word search:**

Angels, Animals, Baby, Christ, God, Gold, Jesus, Joy, Love, Mary, Myrrh, Shepherd, Wise men

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# Liz and Sergio Vilela

## Jacaranda, Communities of Hope

October 2022

[www.bmsworldmission.org/lsvilela](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/lsvilela)



Dear friends,

In this prayer letter Liz would like to introduce you to some training that she has been receiving called the *Jacaranda, Communities of Hope* program, which aims to lead adults and children to new levels of growth in times of adversity through modelling the ways Jesus encountered people.

*Col 1:11-12 - being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.*

Liz: For two weeks in August, I went to Gwayi River in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe to complete my training program with Jacaranda Communities of Hope. I co-led the two weeks of training as practice, to be able to lead the training alone in Mozambique.

Gwayi River is a beautiful place, full of wild animals and beautiful landscape, but it is also a place of historical trauma and hurt. It is part of the land affected by Gukurahundi, the killing massacres that took place in the early 1980s. Gwayi was once a thriving tourist village, but that all changed after the killings and when white people were forced out of Zimbabwe during Mugabe's reign.

On the first day of training we began by teaching the 15 adults about trauma. The following day we had some new people arrive and some that were there the day before didn't turn up. We heard that they thought the training was too academic so we decided to focus on the skills and teach less theory. However we believe that some of them were avoiding having to think about and process their own trauma, which was too difficult for them at this time. It was a little disappointing, nevertheless we were confident in trusting that God was bringing the right people to the training.



The week involved teaching the adults about healing play – the benefits for children when we spend time with them and give them the control when the adult is led by the child, and when the adult is giving their undivided attention to the child. We also taught them about storytelling and each group wrote a Bible story script, and then a real life story based on the Bible story, as a way for the children to relate to the people in the story.

By the end of the week, 19 adults were trained and were ready for the 4 day children's event. The children had already arrived by 8:30am on Monday morning and you could tell that the adults were a little nervous but ready to go. The first day was a little manic, as I was finding my feet along with Carole, the Kenyan lady who was leading with me. The week was filled with games, singing, laughter, play, stories, and food, and the children were prayed for and given a gift on the last day.





The aim of the Jacaranda program is that the adults won't just use the skills they learnt that week but that they would continue to use their healing play toys with the children in their community and continue to practise the 5 Ps – Prayer, Patience, Presence, Posturing, and Partnering.

Here are some comments from the adults:

'Before this training I knew how to help children when they were physically hurt and sick, but now I know how to help them when they are emotionally hurt!'

'I have learnt to have more patience, rather than smacking the children.'

'I now know how to play with my children.'



Now I am ready to train others in these skills in order to see change and transformation in the lives of children and adults in our communities in Mozambique, where trauma has been and is prevalent - people need hope, hope that comes from our God, the creator of the Universe. The first Jacaranda training in Mozambique is already being organised and will happen in January, once we are back from Home Assignment.

While I was away, Sergio had to travel to South Africa for an operation on his foot, which is still healing and will take a while. So August was quite an unsettling time for us, and particularly for the children.



Please could you pray for:

- The Jacaranda program that we are organising for January: that the right adults will come and be open to learn; that it will be a time of healing for them and for the children who will participate in the second week.

- Sergio's foot: for continued healing, and that each day the pain will reduce and he will be able to get on with what he needs to do.

Many thanks for your continued support for BMS and for journeying with our family. We hope that this prayer letter brought you some hope, knowing that even where there appears to be hopelessness, there is hope! Lives are being transformed through the work that BMS is doing, and not just here but around the world.

God bless,

*Sergio, Liz, Chloe & Joshua*

If you would like to support Liz and Sergio Vilela by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](http://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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