



# 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 2021 – No 84

### Calendar

- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec** Service with Sammy Spaine followed by communion
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** Service led by the Leaders, which will include making a Christingle.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** Candlelight Carol Service at 3 p.m. Refreshments served beforehand from 2.15 onwards
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec** Songs of Praise service. Please tell any of the Leaders your favourite carol so we can include it.
- Sunday 2nd Jan** Joint service at Macedonia URC church at 10.30 a.m.
- Sunday 9th Jan** Service led by Dorothy Kendrick

**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:

Our deepest sympathy to Ralph and Val on the death of their cousin, Peter Morgan. He was a dearly loved member of our Fellowship and several people have been sharing stories of how he influenced them in their faith. He served God in so many ways- through his service at Beulah and at Heathfield, and through his school and community work. He was always interested in how others were faring and how he could help. We won't see any reference to Star Wars without thinking of him! He has suffered a lot over the last few years, so now he will be at peace. We will pass round details of his funeral as soon as we have them.

Please also pray for Ian Wh as he still waits for treatment; for Vera- she is allowed visitors at the Coppice Nursing Home but you need to ring to arrange; for Bob; for Wynne; for Millie; for Azeena as she waits to hear if any of her interviews have been successful; for Faith as she recovers from her accident at home and as she prepares to start a new job; for David and Elaine Joynes.

### Messages from the Leaders:

Please pray for the future direction of Beulah, as we engage with Rev Brian Davison and explore if God is calling him to come to work part time at Beulah. He will be meeting the Leadership Team on Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Dec and if we decide to proceed further, he will take a service in January. Please pray about this and listen to what God is saying to us. He currently shares his time between Haggate Baptist Church in Burnley and Cutgate Baptist Church in Rochdale, and his wife is a URC Minister at Headingley, Leeds.

We are investigating grants, which might help us to refurbish the kitchen and improve the garden-watch this space!

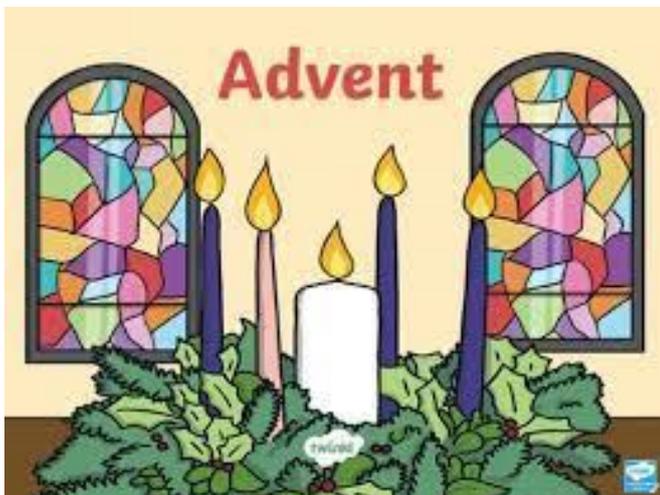
Look at the Advent resources on the NWBA site- there is a link from our website. There is a reflection for each day of Advent. [NWBA Advent calendar](#)

## Message from Rev Graham Tarn (one of the Ministers in our Oldham and Tameside Missional Partnership)

“There is one massively important subject that we can see, remember, reflect on and look forward to— Advent. When does Christmas start for you? Is it as the Advent wreath and candles begin to appear, when the Christmas tree is put up and decorated? Maybe when the first carol is sung or the nativity scene is on display? Does the display have a baby before Christmas Day or on that day?

I'm being difficult, it's a personality trait. Society knows Christmas as the period before Christmas, sometime between September (first decorations, mince pies and chocolates on display) and Boxing Day. The latter because it is a holiday to recover from the celebrations of the day before. Does your fellowship have a worship service this year on the 26th – or is that asking / expecting too much? We all have our different practices whether it is Christmas Eve (early or very late), Christmas Day (usually quite early) and Boxing Day – and worshipping God at all times is a celebration and recognition of God's love for us.

We are caught, in a manner of speaking, with catering for society. Or, we have a duty to engage with society even if they don't really want to know or follow the 'Christian calendar'. As disciples we have a duty and responsibility to proclaim the good news. It isn't about buying this or that gift but helping them (and us) remember why we celebrate, why presents are given (not a bearded wonder in a red suit, with or without reindeer), why gifts, even socks, are accepted with gratitude. Christ came -the greatest gift.



We're blessed, we know Christ Jesus. We know he grew from a baby to adulthood, teaching, preaching, healing, travelling, meeting folk of every sort in so many places and situations. God invites us through Christ to become part of the world-wide family. We have our own immediate family and of the local fellowship – and others to invite in love. Will you be considering Advent, the years of planning and waiting? The distance the magi travelled to seek out what had been revealed in the stars to arrive sometime after the birth? Perhaps you know the story of the 4th Wise man and how he was caught up living a life of healing and service that he missed the birth and 30+ years

later, almost destitute having spent his gift for Jesus in other ways, arrived in Jerusalem..... at Holy Week.

I hope you enjoy Advent and Christmas in the fullest sense of the gift God offers to us for us to be equipped and enabled to share the Good News.

Bless you, Graham “

### Thank you

Thank you to Iain and Jane for putting up the Christmas Tree and arranging the candles.

Thank you too for your generosity witnessed through donations to Tear Fund at the recent quiz, which totalled £100, and for the money in the BMS Missionary boxes, which totalled £121.65.

Thank you for the donations for flowers each Sunday, which help to show our love to those who receive them.



**Prayers:** As we wait to see how the new variant of Coronavirus will affect us, use this prayer from the URC:

“The light shines. It is not overwhelmed by the night.” (John 1:5 paraphrase)

Jesus, as we begin Advent,

we pray for your light to shine, especially for folks experiencing difficult times, or missing a loved one who has died.

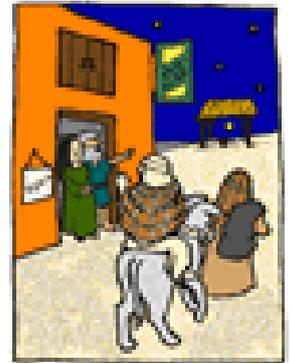
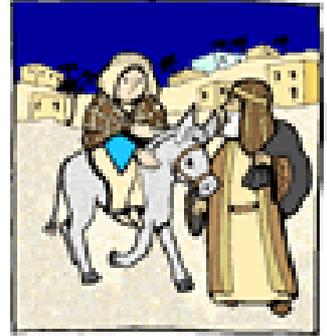
We think of NHS workers and ask that they not be overwhelmed this cold and flu season.

We think of the bereaved and ask that your light shine on the good memories, so that grief does not overwhelm.

Help us to get through this winter together.

Amen.”

Pray for our link missionaries in Albania, Dan and Annie Dupree, as they continue their work at Tek Ura. They have recently signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Interior that allows them to provide services to refugees residing in the Refugee Centre. They have Genta, an Albanian language teacher, working with them on an intensive 3-month language programme to help children integrate into their local school, and the adults transition to life in Albania. They give thanks for donations that have enabled this pilot to begin. The facility holds 250 people and they are expecting more to arrive from Afghanistan.



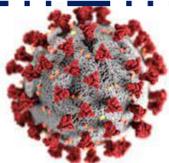
The Bible conversations with Graham Tarn continue on a Tues eve. Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85628360477?pwd=VzIPVEIDYW9BUDh0bmhCOWE0ZVRydz09>

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.

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



**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

**Charity Gift Aid** – If you are a UK tax payer you can boost your donations to the church in the form of your free will offering by signing a charity gift aid declaration. This allows the church to claim an extra 25p of gift aid for every pound you donate. If you are interested in doing this, please see Jane.

**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.

If you have anything of interest for the newsletter, please email to [iain@wilkinsonclan.co.uk](mailto:iain@wilkinsonclan.co.uk)