



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

March/April 2024 – No 106

Calendar



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| Sunday 3 rd March | Service with Rev Brian Davison
Including communion |
| Sunday 10 th March | Service with Rev Sheila Coop |
| Sunday 17 th March | Service with Rev Brian Davison
AGM will follow on after the service |
| Sunday 24 th March | Service with Helen Mellor |
| Sunday 31 st March | Easter Day- family service arranged by the Leaders |
| Sunday 7 th April | Service with Ian Johnson from the Leprosy Mission
Including communion |
| Sunday 14 th April | Service with Rev David Ireland |
| Sunday 21 st April | Service with Rev Brian Davison |
| Sunday 28 th April | Service with Jenny McGhee (Sheila's daughter!) |

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

Happy Easter

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!



Dear Friends,

Six years ago this month, I wrote as part of my letter to the two churches I had then "our family have a meeting with school that will determine Stuart's future in education, and greatly affect his recovery. God knows the outcome already, and whether he is pleased or not, we know he has already set things in motion so that things work out for the best in the end, and more than that that, he is with us and with Stuart every step of the way, every moment, every pain, every little victory".

This was where we were at with Stuart, who had suffered a stomach injury playing Rugby, that had set off a chain of stomach problems resulting in frequent sickness, rapid weight gain (as he was only getting sugars from his food, not protein, so always hungry, but sick straight after), and major problems with the school, who were not understanding at all. His year tutor in particular was difficult, (it turned out she didn't believe he was really ill!) and it eventually culminated in his being expelled for poor attendance. We appealed, and with a very strongly worded letter from his consultant, we won the appeal. But his health still got worse before it got better, he could hardly go out as he was being sick so much, and life looked very bleak for him at just 16.

But in 2019 he turned a corner, in the summer, while we were away he was able to come to the beach a couple of times in the 10 days we were there, the sickness began to go down. I'm sure I've mentioned before how he got his apprenticeship at Daytona, through contacts with the garage I used whenever I needed work that could not be done at home (eg needed a ramp or welding gear).

By early 2020 he was the best we'd known him for years, and he has continued to improve. Now he is very happily settled at work, has a good range of friends, is well on the way to being fully qualified, and a flat of his own. (After another stressful time when God took us right to the wire - at closing time on the very last day of his mortgage offer we thought we had lost the flat as the vendor had not moved out - but he moved out overnight and in the morning he got a call to say all was well. The mortgage offer was at an interest rate that would not be repeated after the economic crisis of 2022, so it was the last chance to buy..

He's happy, working and even doing a few "home improvements"

If we asked God why he had to go through that, we wouldn't understand.

I've often spoken about how God is like a Chess grand master, whatever we do whatever choices we make, if we give them to him, he will work them around to good, just as whatever move you make against a better player, he will work it to his advantage. But if I had been able to ask Bobby Fischer why he made a particular move, what made it a master stroke, I know I would not understand the answer. It would involve examples from great matches of the past, knowledge of how his particular opponent plays, analysis of possibilities up to 12 moves ahead, I'd be lost. If he replied "Because I'm the best player in the world, trust me, it was the right move", I could go with that.

Job asked God a similar question about his suffering. The answer is brilliant. Read Job 38. Here are some excerpts "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?," "Have you explored the springs from which the seas come? Have you explored their depths?," "Where does light come from, and where does darkness go?" He had no answer but to worship. Although science may now answer some of these, the principle is the same – "Why?" involves a big picture that only God sees, one that is way too huge for us to understand.

So what should we ask, what may we ask?

Instead of asking "why?" and trying to understand the bigger picture, perhaps we should ask only what is relevant to us. See what we can take from it, how we may grow through the experience? Questions like: "What have I learned about myself, that I should bear in mind in the future? What can I try to build upon, what to work on with you?" "What have I learned about this fallen world that will help me as I continue to live for you in it.?" "What have I learned about you and your faithfulness that will help me walk hand in hand in trust in the coming years?". These are questions we can and should ask, with answers we can not only understand, but can apply and grow with.

Thanks be to God for his wisdom. The wisdom not to tell us what we cannot fathom, but that which we can hear, understand, and learn from in our Christian growth.

With love in Our Lord Brian.

Oldham and Tameside Missional Partnership events.

Please support the following events arranged by the Oldham and Tameside Missional Partnership:

A series of evenings using the Chosen 2 series- giving a real insight into the ministry of Jesus and his disciples. The first series was very well received.

The venue is Charlestown URC church-69 Alexandra Rd, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 8LH. 4 sessions before Easter and 4 after Easter

Blessed are the Chosen

"These things will make sense to some but not to others" The Beatitudes

Meet at Charlestown on Wednesdays at 7:30 to watch and discuss....

- 21 Feb: Poor in Spirit / Thunder
- 28 Feb: Who mourn / I saw you
- 13 March: Meek / Matthew 4:24
- 20 March: Hunger / Perfect Opportunity
- 10 April: Merciful / Spirit
- 17 April: Pure in heart / Unlawful
- 24 April: Peacemakers / Reckoning
- 1 May: Persecuted / Beyond mountains

(8 May: possibly a round up quiz, additional insights and looking ahead)

Season 1, What does it mean to be Chosen, is available on TheChosen.tv, YouTube and others. It is also currently on Netflix.



Based on the TV Series: The Chosen (season 2)
Created by Dallas Jenkins

evening services/ reflections in Holy Week on Zoom- all at 7.30 p.m. :

- Monday 25th March – on John 12 V 1-11 led by Rev Barbara Prenderleith
- Tuesday 26th March –on John 12 v 20-36 led by Rev Ruth Wollaston
- Wednesday 27th March- on John 13 v 21-32 led by Rev John Piper.

Zoom details as follows:

Topic: Holy Week Meditation

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85700524275?pwd=dFZMY1pnMThyNXo5QW5hM3B6cWVKQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 0052 4275

Passcode: 988340.

Prayers Among our fellowship:

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill at this time or housebound and missing our fellowship! In particular pray for Lucy; for Bob and Sylvia; for Margaret Hounsell after the death of her friend Irene Binns; for Phil; for Delia; for Janet; for Margaret Helliwell on end of life care.

We remember with gratitude the life of Irene and thank God for her loyal service over so many years- at Hollinwood Congregational Church and then at Beulah. She dedicated so much time to serving God both at church and at the Salt Cellar.

Wynne who is having neuropathy laser treatment -hopefully this will ease her pain and help her mobility.

A belated happy 90th birthday to Margaret Hopwood!



A prayer for peace from CAFOD:

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction, help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying, bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them

Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope. Amen.

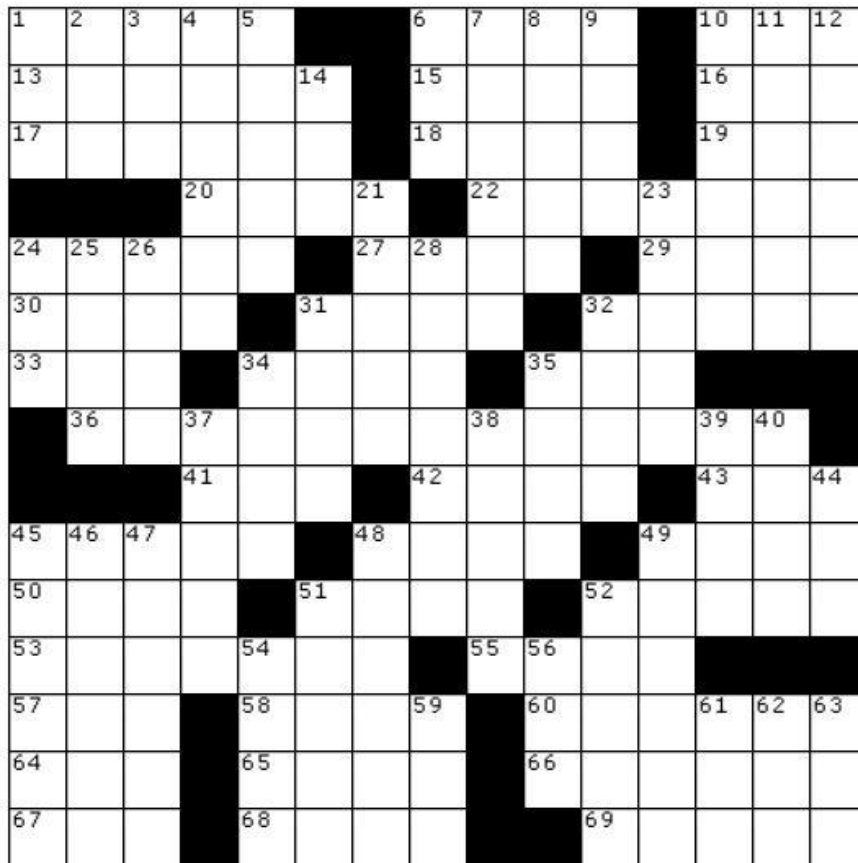
Linda Jones / CAFOD



News from the Leaders

A big thank you to Elaine for organising the warm space which is running on a Weds from 12-2. The couple of regulars from last year have been really appreciative and have enjoyed the company and it has been good to have a Mum with a pre-school child and a baby come too. A free drawing and painting class has started from 1-3 organised with the help of the social prescriber from Hollinwood Medical Practice and some of those participants have asked to come early and have a drink and snack too. It is all part of our desire to serve our community better. Thank you to Julie for assisting too and it has been good to have other volunteers such as Sharon (a neighbour) and Bob Ashton from Millgate Church. If you can help serve a cuppa do speak to Elaine.

Please do not forget the church AGM which is on the 17th March after the service.



ACROSS

- 1 Sends by post
- 6 Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (abbr.)
- 10 Misery
- 13 In a foreign land
- 15 See ya!
- 16 Make a mistake
- 17 Noisy, like an old house
- 18 September (abbr.)
- 19 __ Jima
- 20 Swerve
- 22 Harpooned
- 24 Biblical weeds
- 27 Heed
- 29 Bored
- 30 Car rental agency
- 31 OT book of prophecy
- 32 Objects of false worship
- 33 Facial twitch
- 34 Tussle
- 35 Compass point

- 36 See 8 Down
 - 41 Downwind
 - 42 Dummy
 - 43 A name of God
 - 45 Talk
 - 48 Not his
 - 49 Writer Bombeck
 - 50 Stuff
 - 51 How Judas betrayed Jesus
 - 52 Saucy girl
 - 53 Cry of joy
 - 55 Always
 - 57 Samuel's mentor
 - 58 Not ins
 - 60 Odors
 - 64 Day after Sun.
 - 65 Tried and __
 - 66 Themes
 - 67 Poached food
 - 68 Otherwise
 - 69 Dig
- DOWN**
- 1 PC type
 - 2 Abridged (abbr.)
 - 3 Wrath
 - 4 Five __ and

- 5 For goodness __!
- 6 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 7 Type of fuel
- 8 Joyful
- 9 Pamper
- 10 Creep
- 11 George __ ("War of the Worlds" author)
- 12 Eats away
- 14 Tint
- 21 Bird perch
- 23 Helped
- 24 Make lace
- 25 Tel __ (Israel city)
- 26 Costa __
- 28 Other than
- 31 Summer month
- 32 Institution (abbr.)
- 34 Blessed are the __
- 35 Snaky fish
- 37 South American animal

- 38 Scandinavian language
- 39 Ventilates
- 40 Sweet potatoes
- 44 Summer month
- 45 Plot
- 46 Programming language
- 47 Allaying
- 48 Suspension
- 49 Continent
- 51 Ridged surface
- 52 King when Jesus was born
- 54 Memo
- 56 Value-added tax
- 59 Perceive
- 61 1/1000 inch
- 62 Air Cushion Vehicle (abbr.)
- 63 South southeast

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