



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

Nov/Dec 2025 – No 116

Calendar



All services start at 11 am unless otherwise stated

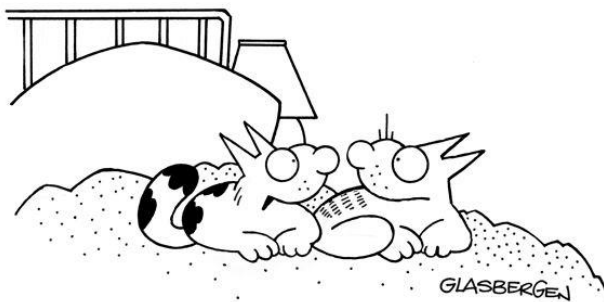
- November 2nd Service with David Hey
- November 9th Remembrance Sunday. **NO SERVICE AT BEULAH.**
- November 16th Service with Darren Holland
- November 23rd Service with Ashley Stansfield
- November 30th Service with Graham Tarn
- December 7th Service with John Fidler
- December 14th Service with Dave Butt
- December 21st Carol service at 3 p.m. jointly with the Nigerian Fellowship .
No morning service.
- December 28th Service led by the Leaders

Our services will normally be live via zoom. The ID you need for any of Beulah's services is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315

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"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya'!"



"Personally, I wouldn't mind at all if God sent a plague
of mice to rain down upon the sinners of the modern world."

Revelation 21: v5 “Behold I am making all things new”

A Welshman was stranded on a desert island. After many years a ship saw his distress beacon and a boat was sent to bring him off. The young officer in the boat said, “You’ve been here alone for 15 years and yet you’ve built two chapels – why?”

The Welshman replied, “That is the chapel I go to and that is the one I don’t!!”

This parody of the non-conformist church is not too far from the truth and in the industrial northwest, chapels were built of different denominations to accommodate a massive growth in the populations as the industrial revolution drew people into the towns. Many were built far too big and never used. Disagreements led to splits in congregations, some disagreements over theology others over more human issues. I remember when within a mile around Union Street, there were six Methodist chapels, five Congregational chapels, three Baptist chapels and a Presbyterian church (not to mention Roman Catholic and Anglican churches).

But times have changed and churches and denominations have merged, buildings have shut and populations have moved, either through the building of housing estates, social mobility or the influx of other faith groups.

We are left, in many cases, with huge totally unsuitable Victorian buildings housing small ageing congregations.

Next month, it will be 30 years since my Ordination. I was inducted as a district minister and was able to preach at least twice a month at churches around the district and I was able to get to know so many of you in the Missional Partnership better than most ministers. At the time of my Ordination, Union Street had over 70 children in the Boys’ and Girls’ Brigades and Sunday School, a young congregation of families worshipping together and a bright future. In my time 4 people have trained for ministry (and outreach to the council estates was very active).

Things have changed and it would be easy to feel that my ministry has been a little futile, and yet I hear the Lamb on the throne of Revelation saying to me “Behold, I am making all things new!” and I know that there is a universal plan if only we would follow God’s directions.

At Ruth’s retirement ‘bash’ (excellent hosting by the people of Shaw URC and Methodists) really made me feel that the Missional Partnership was beginning to work and that people feel they are part of something worthwhile.

The Church Life Review has shown that URC congregations might be smaller but they are really engaging with the community (as the small groups in Paul’s day did).

The Bible Society survey has shown that church attendances are up and that there has been an increase in church attendance particularly amongst young men.

Isaiah 43 v 19 says ‘I am about to do a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? ...for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I panned for myself so that they might declare my praise.’

When I was ordained in 1995, there were 1.2 billion Christians in the world. In 2025 there are 2.7 billion Christians in the world. “Aah” you say, “but the population has risen dramatically.” Between 1800 and 2000 the world population has increased more than 6 times but the Christian population has increased 9 times – in the words of the hymn written by Arthur Campbell Ainger (music by Millicent Kingham) ‘God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year’.

We have to remember that we have been called to be an important part of His plan so pray regularly, read your bible and enjoy your worship for

‘Behold, I am making all things new!’.

David Ireland

Messages from the Leaders:

A big thank you to Ian for all the various maintenance jobs he has been doing and which have often saved us money! We were hoping that the new heaters/ radiators in the Hall and Primary Lounge would be fitted over half term, but the company has now informed us they can't do it that week. We are trying to ascertain when this can now be done, without meaning that the pre-school has to close. Other plans in the pipeline include new fire doors between the coffee lounge and the entrance area instead of the old sliding doors. A quinquennial inspection is long overdue, so one has been arranged for Tuesday 28th October and we wait to see what this picks up!!

A cleaning party is going to assemble at the Manse on Tuesday 28th October at 10.30 to give it a deep clean. We will then get a valuation from a chartered surveyor (we are required to do this) before taking a final decision about its future.

We are continuing conversations with various "parties" to help us look at the future. 4 joint services have been planned with Roman Rd and Macedonia in 2026 and we have agreed we will try to support each other with activities we run. On Nov 4th the leaders are meeting with Jane Henderson, regional Minister at the North West Baptist Association. We will obviously report back on all these discussions.

Thank you to all who helped/ donated to the McMillan coffee afternoon which raised £126.

Elaine is going to arrange a get together lunch, but this is likely to be a New Year event.

We are extremely grateful for a bequest of £20,946.56 from the estate of Irene Binns. It is lovely to think that she remembered us in this way.

Thank you to all who were in the service on October 19th when we had a planned fire drill. We now know that the fire alarm panel has a fault (it was difficult to switch off!) but in general it was a useful exercise.

For your prayers

Please remember Lucy, after a couple of mini strokes and then she has contracted Covid whilst in Fairfield hospital, she has now been moved to Medlock Court; Stephen after a cataract operation; Janet (Delia's daughter) after an operation for breast cancer; Bob and Sylvia; Wynne; Ray Mossop; the Kamrans.

Pray for all those who are housebound and missing the opportunity to gather together.

Congratulations to all with birthdays in the coming weeks.

We are thankful that Hadi and Fariba have been offered a house just off Kings Rd (near the park) – an answer to prayer. We hope the house will be ready in the next couple of weeks and that a place will be offered to Arshida in a new school nearer to home.

Santa Lunch

On **Dec 6th** we are holding a Lunch with Santa event from **11-1** (as we did last year) with craft activities, lunch and then a visit from Santa. If you are able to help in any way- serving food or drinks/ staffing the welcome desk/ being an extra person on one of the craft tables/ washing up.. please let Alison know so we can plan accordingly. As part of the cooperation between churches mentioned above, we hope that a member of Roman Rd will staff a craft table.

Shine Your Light

Another joint event is the Shine Your Light event on **Dec 13th at 4 p.m. at Roman Rd** church. Their tree will be lit, followed by carols and a couple of readings outside in the garden and then hot chocolate and mince pies inside. It would be great if you could support this event. If it is successful the plan is to hold it in the park in 2026.

A prayer for peace in the Middle East from Tearfund.

Heavenly Father, who sent your son Jesus to be our Prince of Peace,

We thank you for the peace agreement between Israel and Hamas. We pray that this would bring lasting peace to the whole region, and that you would restore hope to the hopeless.

We pray that Israel would allow a flood of aid to freely enter Gaza.

We pray for a lasting ceasefire, and that the peace plan is implemented fully by all parties, so that Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and with dignity.

Our hearts break for the millions of people who've endured relentless violence and conflict, and we ask that you restore them to life in all its fullness.

For all those who are suffering, starving and mourning, we ask that help would reach them quickly – and that you would be their comfort, their healer and their safe refuge.

In Jesus' name, Amen,

The Good Samaritan

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up.."

Did Noah Fish?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

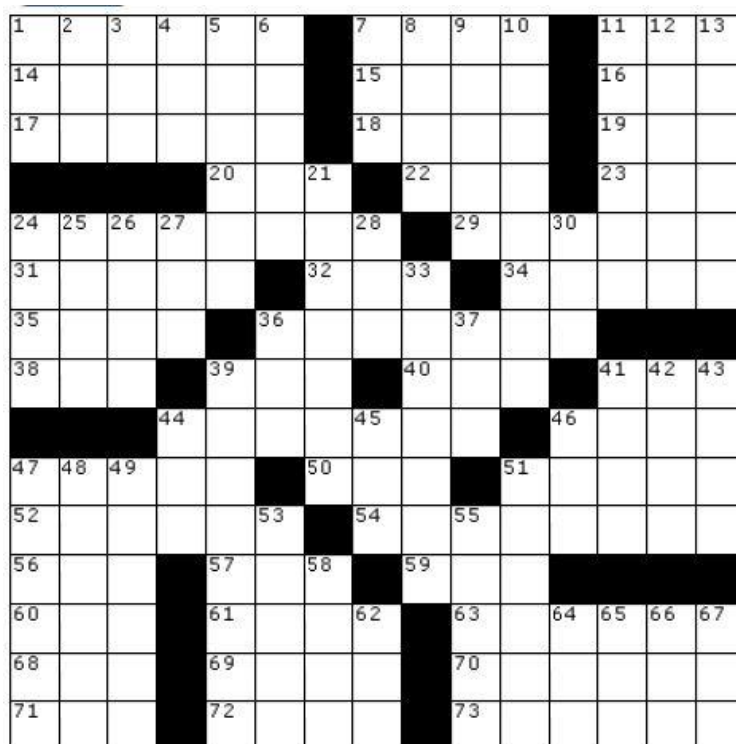
The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23.

She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember

the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly,

"The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."



ACROSS

1 Yellow melon
 7 A Gospel
 11 Deface
 14 Programming language
 15 Water (Sp.)
 16 Compass point
 17 Member of an American Indian people
 18 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
 19 Digital audio tape
 20 Accountant
 22 Delve
 23 Card game
 24 Military airport
 29 ___ Augustus
 31 By the ___ of God
 32 Cubic centimeter
 34 Cook
 35 Small particle
 36 Types of tacos
 38 North northeast
 39 Soup container

40 San Diego attraction
 41 Her
 44 Escape by flying
 46 Yes
 47 Afloat (2 wds.)
 50 Sedan
 51 Large hotel room
 52 Appear (2 wds.)
 54 Biblical Ethiopians
 56 Sun's name
 57 Hades
 59 Hotel
 60 Flightless bird
 61 S.A. Indian
 63 Totals (2 wds.)
 68 Make lace
 69 American state
 70 Japanese car
 71 South southeast
 72 Bod
 73 Scandinavian nation

DOWN

1 Cycles per second
 2 Be

3 Jesus
 4 Brew
 5 Lawn bowling
 6 Biblical Greek word for love
 7 Traveler's aid
 8 Old
 9 Having a secret meaning
 10 Down under jumper
 11 Woman with snake hair
 12 Pineapple (German)
 13 Answer
 21 Poor Richard's ___
 24 Against
 25 Press
 26 Merit
 27 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
 28 Division (abbr.)
 30 Aurora
 33 Brother of Mary and Martha
 36 Negative

37 ___ to the World
 39 Roman emperor
 41 Show
 42 Opp. of love
 43 Sight organs
 44 Some
 45 Western Athletic Conference
 46 French "yes"
 47 Fortes
 48 Doubting ___
 49 Dissolved substance
 51 Valley of the ___ of death
 53 Indian horse
 55 Lovers quarrels
 58 Sham
 62 Expression of surprise
 64 Change hue
 65 Turf
 66 Southwestern Indian
 67 Cooking tool

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