



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

Oct/Nov 2023 – No 103

Calendar

- Sunday 1st October Harvest festival service led by Rev Brian Davison and including Communion, with a buffet breakfast beforehand. Congregation meeting after the service.
- Sunday 8th October Service led by Rev Sheila Coop
- Sunday 15th October Service led by Rev Brian Davison
- Sunday 22nd October Service led by Judith Haughton
- Sunday 29th October Service led by Graham Laffey
- Sunday 5th November Service led by Rev Brian Davison
Including Communion
- Sunday 12th November TBA
- Sunday 19th November Service led by Rev Brian Davison



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



Dear Friends,

In early July we had a friend from South Africa staying with us, and she was delighted with the long summer evenings, the peace of the sun going down and how long dusk lasted. Nearer the equator, where she is, (Pretoria), sunset and the fall of darkness happen at much the same time summer and winter, and very quickly, there is very little "dusk." We noticed the difference too in our time over there. I too love the Daylight saving scheme, well the summer bit anyway, I look forward to the end of March when it goes from getting dark at 6:30 to 7:30 and just that hour makes all the difference, with the best yet to come in June and July.

Equally the shift from 6:30 to 5:30 at the end of October seems to announce the arrival of winter harshly, and apart from Christmas lights in December (Please not so early we get bored with them – "The Range filled their shelves with Christmas decorations in August this year!!), the nights seem darker.

What is it about light, especially sunshine, that is so cheering? (until it's too hot), or darkness that can feel foreboding or oppressive?

I think it's more than just being able to see clearly, something hard to describe, but it is no wonder that John talks of Jesus as The Light of The World, coming into our darkness, no accident that we celebrate his coming not at the start of winter, or the end (his resurrection, and new life are usually very near the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere), but at the centre of winter, a few days after the shortest day, longest night.

As the dark nights draw in, and winter approaches, don't wait until Christmas to remember the name Jesus was given by the angel, not only the light of the world, but Immanuel, God with us. To adapt a popular slogan, the light of the world is for life, not just Christmas!

"Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards" Song of Solomon ch 2 vv 15

The third of the five space shuttles was called Discovery and it flew from 1984 through to 2011.

The shuttle was launched strapped to a huge disposable rocket which put it into orbit.

Discovery was responsible for helping build the MIR space station and launching and maintaining the Hubble telescope. The power of the launch rocket was equivalent to that of fifty jumbo jets.

All of the expertise and expense and fuel and scientists time needed to put the shuttle into orbit, yet in 2006 when the astronauts had been strapped in and the countdown commenced, at the last minute the mission was aborted. The fuel tank to the booster was covered in a layer of foam just as things were reaching a critical point an Engineer noticed that the foam had been punctured, they found 205 tiny holes in the insulation which initially baffled the Engineers and Scientists until they found that the culprits were a pair of nesting woodpeckers pecking at the insulation for nesting material.

The powerful expensive shuttle brought to a standstill, delayed for five weeks because of two tiny birds! The Old Testament writer speaks of things he had observed, little foxes spoiling the vineyard gnawing on the vines with their teeth.

Little things have the power to destroy.

As I move around the mission partnership preaching, like most ministers I listen to complaints about the way things are going, the shortage of Ministers, the quality of preaching, the "unfair" M & M fund arrangements. We have to be careful that our little niggles and criticism don't undermine the excellent work being done by lots of dedicated people to ensure that our churches have ministerial cover and pastoral support. I am so grateful for the work of our mission partnership representatives who take on so much in order to free ministers and lay preachers to carry out their work of preaching, teaching and caring, grateful for the Elders and Church Secretaries who work tirelessly in their own pastorates and for the work of Lawrence and Giles as they steer us through these changing times.

So, let's not be like the "little foxes" with our negative comments instead we should listen to the words of the hymn writer who wrote –

"Leaving every day behind, something which might hinder,
Running swifter every day, growing purer, kinder"

Give thanks to God for the work of all who work on our behalf establishing new systems and pray for the future of our churches and their ministry to spread the good news in each community.

A short prayer –

Lord God as we live and grow guide us by your Holy Spirit that our lives may bring joy to others and to you. In Jesus' name. Amen

Prayers Among our fellowship:

Lucy, who has had another fall; Wynne, with multiple medical appointments; Bob and Sylvia Beattie; Phil; Brian, recovering from a parasite infection; David Cheetham; Elaine Joynes; Carol, who is struggling with arthritis and some issues at her new home.

All those who are housebound or not well enough to come including Mary Howarth; Elaine Everett; Irene Binns; Mary Norris; Enid Hopkinson.

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

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Alan Knott after his death recently. We particularly remember the role he played at many of our Christmas Fairs.

Pray for Liz and Sergio Vilela and their children as they adjust to life back in the UK. Read their last prayer letter on our website. This is just an extract from it, which seems very relevant to us:

"Thank you -We meet dear brothers and sisters who always ask us about our requests or prayer points, we always have a few, but in the last few years a word that I learned in Latin and I really like it is "Gratitude". Gratitude comes from the Latin word gratus, which means "thankful, pleasing." When you feel gratitude, you're pleased by what someone did for you and also pleased by the results. We are grateful to God and to you, for being the voice and hands of the Lord and blessing us either with prayer or actions. Changes are opportunities- Don't be afraid to change course or change directions. The changes we make sometimes are all we need for new doors to open on our horizon. The "fashionable" word is "resilience", but it best describes the period of changes, often troubled, and which brings with it strength and focus. Resilience is not fashion, it is having the elasticity to adapt to changes, and every change takes us out of the status quo and this creates opportunities.

Blessings, Sergio, Liz, Chloe & Joshua

We pray for our world and all the destruction of it through climate change and greed. A message in the URC worship notes this month struck a chord:

"Millennia ago the prophet Habakkuk, when faced with war, environmental disaster and consequent famine, sang:

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.

God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.



Words which resonate as we face the consequences of human greed wreaking havoc on the fragile earth. As the climate changes, the ice melts, and sea waters rise we will have to adapt and learn to mitigate the dreadful climate changes which are already upon us. What I find fascinating is that Habakkuk didn't turn away from God when faced with his traumas and, in these times of change and danger I hope we won't either. Habakkuk's response was to turn to God and, in worship found the strength to make sense of his world and to adapt to his realities."

News from the Leaders

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 1st October. Please share in this and make it a joyful occasion. It will also be our monthly communion service. A buffet style breakfast will be served beforehand and is open to everyone from 10 a.m. It would help with catering if you could indicate if you might join us. Any donations of gifts will be welcome for the Food Bank. They are especially requesting the following items: cereals; nappies; sugar; tinned potatoes and shampoo! They have plenty of baked beans and pasta!

We are very grateful to Sally, our Pre-School Manager, for refurbishing all the toilets and her office during the school holidays. The before and after photos show a huge improvement! The upstairs room from the coffee lounge, which has in the past been used by the Youth Club, is also being refurbished and it is hoped that this can become a sensory room, which can be used by the Pre-school and possibly also hired out. Thank you too to Steve, Ian and Iain who have all been involved in some maintenance work.

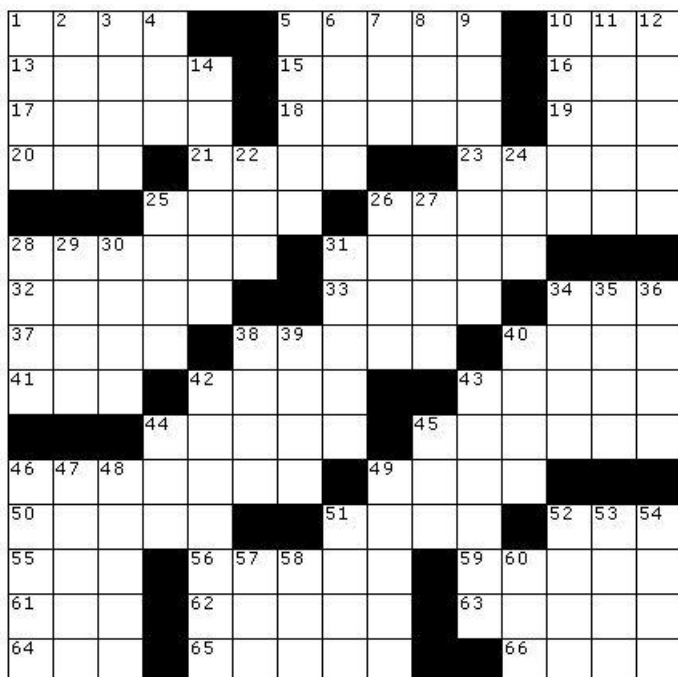
Please complete the survey that has been produced for us to try to ascertain what the most urgent needs are in Hollinwood. We hope this will give us a clear focus on what we can best offer in the Winter. The link to fill it in online is:

<https://forms.gle/GaFv2HWZUaFpA2UP7>

and it can also be found on our website page- www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk

Paper copies are available too and are on the Communion table and can be returned there. It only takes couple of minutes to complete but it should really help us move forward. If you can share the survey too with any neighbours/ friends in the area, then that would be great. The Leaders have distributed it in neighbouring streets and are also looking at any community events where we could distribute them.

Here are some recent photos from the church garden- the potatoes will be ready to harvest soon and there are carrots and beans ready now!



ACROSS

- 1 Musical composition
- 5 Grass covered area
- 10 Disks
- 13 Longed
- 15 Netherlands' capital
- 16 River (Spanish)
- 17 Sacrificial table
- 18 Swelling
- 19 Finale
- 20 Constellation
- 21 Son of Seth
- 23 San __ (CA city)
- 25 Phoenician god
- 26 Son of David
- 28 Lay to rest
- 31 BB Player Abdul Jabar
- 32 Instruments to guide oxen
- 33 Flat bread
- 34 Sign language
- 37 Farside's Larson
- 38 What Israelites ate in desert

40 German "Mrs."

- 41 That girl
- 42 Definite
- 43 Remorse
- 44 Book after Daniel
- 45 Roman governor
- 46 Settings
- 49 Small horse
- 50 Remember the __
- 51 Adam's son
- 52 Surface to air missile
- 55 Center
- 56 Award
- 59 Cut of beef
- 61 Adam's wife
- 62 Leaves out
- 63 Peter's other name
- 64 Adjust
- 65 Hospital worker
- 66 Heredity component

3 Do __ others

- 4 Body of water
- 5 OT abode of the dead
- 6 Gobs
- 7 Ripen
- 8 Cane liquor
- 9 Palestinian body of water
- 10 Fish basket
- 11 Wild dog
- 12 City destroyed by fire
- 14 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
- 22 Capture
- 24 A name of God
- 25 This is my __ given for you
- 26 Related
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Chicken products
- 29 He survived the Great Flood
- 30 Biblical weed
- 31 Sleep disorder
- 34 Opera solo

35 You are the __ of the earth

- 36 Pear shaped stringed instrument
- 38 Ponder
- 39 Greek god of war
- 40 Laden
- 42 King after David
- 43 Nephilim
- 44 Youngest son of Noah
- 45 Luau dish
- 46 Tintseled cloth
- 47 __ Oyl (Popeye's girlfriend)
- 48 Trainee
- 49 Test answer
- 51 Tigers
- 52 A few
- 53 After awhile
- 54 Word written on the wall (Daniel)
- 57 Flightless bird
- 58 Directory (abbr.)
- 60 Huge

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