

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

August 2022 – No 94

Calendar

- Sunday 7th Aug** Joint service at Macedonia URC **10.30 am start.**
- Sunday 14th Aug** Service led by Sammy Spaine including Communion
- Sunday 21st Aug** Service led by Led by the Leaders- a service to celebrate anniversary of the URC and it will include a video message from Joy Ransom, our link missionary in Nepal
- Sunday 28th Aug** Service led by Stephen Crook
- Sunday 4th Sept** Service led by Rev Brian Davison including Communion.



Our services will be live via zoom. The ID you need for any of Beulah's services is

Among our fellowship:

Wynne- still struggling to recover after her recent fall, which has caused more health issues; Bob and Sylvia after recent treatment for Bob in hospital; Ian and Sharon Whitehead; June Brain, who was admitted to hospital on Sunday and spent the night in A and E, but is now on a ward; Vera in Coppice Care Home; Lucy; Carol, who has an extension until Sept to find a new home for her and her cats; all who are housebound or are in care homes and feeling isolated.

Prayer points from our link missionaries:

Joy Ransom in Nepal: "I return to Nepal next Wednesday so I'd appreciate prayers for safe travel especially for the journey from Kathmandu to Besisahar. The road was destroyed in a landslide recently, so I may need to walk quite a way with my suitcases. "

Liz and Sergio Vilela in Mozambique (they will visit us in Dec)

- the new Baptist convention leadership and for a joint vision to move forward.
- Sergio as he attends meetings to discuss ministry opportunities and protection as he travels to do some visits to projects.
- Liz as she does her practical part of the Jacaranda training that she is involved in. She will travel to Zimbabwe for two weeks in August to lead the training and children's camp.



Dear friends,

They say that change is inevitable, except from a vending machine, and as most know things are about to change for Clare and I, with her post in Leeds coming to an end, and her new ministry in Peterborough, where I shall be “working from home” down there in the early part of the week, and staying with Stuart in Leeds coming over to Oldham and Burnley in the latter part, and Sunday. (Please pray for success as we try to sort a home for Stuart in sensible reach of his work).

It sounds challenging, but God has led this far and never let us down.

When Clare was called to ministry People said “Both in ministry, how can that work” But God was in it, and it did.

When she was called to the URC, not the Baptists people said “How can that work? Ministering in different denominations?” But God had it in hand and in fact we keep meeting other bi denominational ministry couples.

Then Clare covering many churches in Leeds, with me having one in Burnley and another in Rochdale, now in Oldham

But each time God reminds us he is faithful.

Words like Is 41.10, and Isaiah 43 remind us he is with us and goes before us. Our part is to trust and obey.

So, we look forward to more of the same: i.e., challenging circumstances, but God is bigger than any of them. We look forward to continued blessings as he pours out his love on his churches

As it says in Ephesians 3:20 NIV

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

Love in Our Lord,

Brian

A prayer from CAFOD for food justice:

God of abundance, you entrust to our care your gift of creation, our common home.

Open our ears to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

God of justice, you show us how to live in gratitude and solidarity.

Open our mouths to speak out, challenging greed and inequality, and standing up for all among us in desperate need of food.

God of hope, you share with us your vision of a world renewed.

Open our hearts to compassion as we hold before you the people across the world suffering from malnutrition and hunger.

May we reach out in love.

Amen.

Happy birthday to all those with birthdays in August, including Marleigh and Harley!



Best wishes to Anthony Harding, as he competes in the synchronised diving competition at the Commonwealth Games on **Friday morning** this week (August 5th)



Messages from the Leaders:

Thank you to everyone doing all the jobs behind the scenes. The Leaders met to discuss the priorities and vision going forward after all the input at the AGM. We have also made progress with the Constitution, so we will update you on progress at the next Congregation meeting.

It is lovely to see the flowers in the wild flower patch in the church garden that were sown when we had the help from the Council team in March- a reminder that it can take time to see the fruits of our labours!

Letter from the United Reformed Church

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK.

Thank God that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

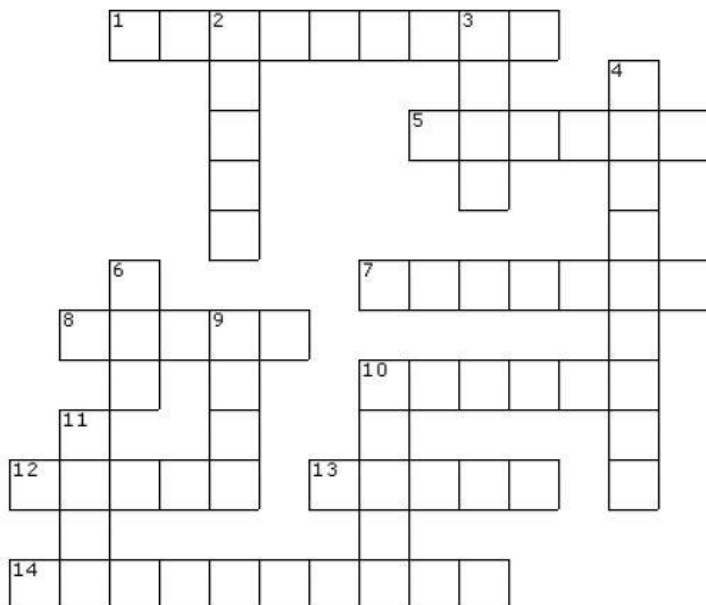
If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we "ordinary Christians" are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers "on the ground" and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund



ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be ___
- 5 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be ___
- 7 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the ___ of heaven
- 8 Woe to you who laugh now, for you will ___ and weep
- 10 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go ___
- 12 Blessed are you who weep now,

- for you will ___
- 13 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the ___
- 14 Blessed are those who are ___ because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

DOWN

- 2 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown ___
- 3 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of ___ against you because of me
- 4 Woe to you when all men speak ___ ____, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.
- 6 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of ___
- 9 But woe to you who are ____, for you have already received your comfort.
- 10 Blessed are the pure in ____, for they will see God
- 11 Blessed are you when men ___ you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man

Crossword Puzzle: Blessings and Woes



Word Search, Paul's Missionary Journey from Acts
 Antioch, Arabia, Berea, Corinth, Crete, Egypt, Galatia, Italy, Libya, Malta, Myra, Rome, Troas

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