



BEULAH CHRONICLE

The newsletter of:

Beulah Community Church

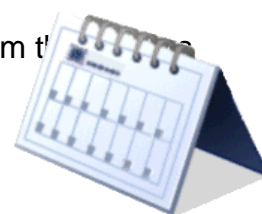
In association with the Baptist Union of Great Britain
and the United Reformed Church

www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk

July/August 2024 – No 108

Calendar

- Sunday 23rd June Service with Rev Brian Davison * see messages from the leaders
- Thursday 27th June Leaders meeting at church @ 7.30pm
- Sunday 30th June Service with Dorothy Kendrick * see messages from the leaders
- Sunday 7th July Service with Rev Brian Davison
Including communion
- Sunday 14th July Service with Sheila Coop
- Sunday 21st July Service with Rev Brian Davison * see messages from the leaders
- Sunday 28th July Service Clare Downing
- Sunday 4th Aug Service with Rev Brian Davison Including communion
- Sunday 11th Aug Service led by the leaders
- Sunday 18th Aug Service to be confirmed
- Sunday 25th Aug Service with Rev Graham Tarn



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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“Which weather app are you using? Mine is forecasting a plague of locusts and scattered showers of fire and brimstone.”

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“I’m enrolling in seminary college so I can learn about miracles, like how to pay off my student loans.”

Dear Friends,

As the general election approaches, I am sure you will be bombarded with information, some of it true, much of it trying to get you to vote one way or another. I won't add to that, only to suggest that as we consider how to vote, think not only of what may be good for you, but what is good for those less well off, less comfortable. Those who perhaps haven't had the best opportunities, and remember the prophets with their emphasis on justice as well as holiness.

And in all the talk and chatter, let us be voices of grace and love.

As I look out of my window, I can see the many plants in our garden thriving - some chosen, many "self-seeded" but still very pretty. And on the lawn a mix of daisies, buttercups and dandelions, and the dandelions bring back memories of when I was little....

We had hours of fun blowing them when they were in seed, telling the time or whether the new girl or boy at school loves you! Left to its own devices a dandelion will keep its seeds until they are ripe, then dispatch them to the wind. They will float who knows where: only the wind knows where it will carry each seed. Eventually they will land, and if they are on good soil, will germinate producing more dandelions the next year.

But are we also a bit like the dandelion parachutes?

As we gather to worship and feed on him, whether on zoom or in the building, we grow together, and the seeds of his word grow within us. Then the dandelion ripens, and the seeds are scattered on the wind, to all corners. As we go out from the building, and even as we meet people, or chatting on the phone or social media, we are spread widely, carried by the wind of the Spirit to wherever He chooses, bearing with us the seed of His word. Indeed, we might even reach further afield online than in person!

Ever so gently that seed will be placed where God intends. Sometimes we will know where we have planted it; we will have had a conversation and know that we spoke directly about God, and what he means for us. Other times we may not know where God has had us leave a seed. It may have been a kind word or deed, even just a smile, but as ambassadors of God everything we do and say leaves an impression, a seed for good or bad. Week after week we come together to feed on him, in the church, or on zoom, in bible study, in all these ways we collect our seeds, and week after week we are dispersed all over the area and beyond, to take them where Jesus is already preparing the soil, where they may take root quickly, or be a very small but important part of somebody's journey to faith, or back to faith.

Living as nature intended, even without the help of little children, dandelions eventually spread. Living the life Jesus intended for His people, day by day, week by week, together in the Church and out in the world we will plant seeds, some of which will germinate. Special activities and outreach all have their place, but to be effective they must be in addition to a healthy feeding functioning church, living together and apart in the grace of God.

May God spread the seed of his word through us week by week.

Love in Our Lord,

Brian

*Every Sunday, wet or fine I trot along to the half-past-nine.
I go because I think I should to praise the Lord, for He is good.
The service starts; then goodness knows where all my concentration goes!
For though I speak and sing the words my thoughts fly off like little birds!
I call them back on to their perch, and tell them they must stay in church;
But soon, when I'm supposed to pray I find they've fluttered miles away!
Again I summon them to me, and scold them for their truancy.
And when the lesson's clearly read they settle down inside my head.
Five minutes later, all in vain - the blighters have escaped again!
The Lord must think I'm very weak to let them play this hide and seek!
At least I get them to confess to all their sins and waywardness.
I tell the Lord I'm filled with shame, but anyway, at least I came!*
Lynette Nicholson

Dear Friends,

Recently I came across the above little gem in an old church magazine at Mum and Dad's. As soon as I read it my own thoughts became most unruly. Several were all trying to speak at once, whilst others had rushed off in different directions.

One was asking "Is church just somewhere we ought to come to, wherever our thoughts might be?" Well *maybe*... We can experience God's presence anywhere, any time, but it is good to come together in his presence. There is something wonderful about being together in his presence even if we cannot remember every word that was said. Of course, we also come to worship with all our heart mind and soul, and to learn of him, so it's better if our thoughts are with us.

Another had rushed off to the television, where even in the most intellectual dramas the scene changes every three minutes, then it rushed off to a classroom where the activity changes every ten minutes or so. Is it any wonder our thoughts can't keep still in church?

But one was asking a very challenging question: If our thoughts are always trying to get away to other things, why don't we let them bring the other things with them to church and offer them to God? Maybe that's the way to settle them down. Unless of course we believe that God is not interested in the little things of life, only the important, holy stuff.

If a thought has gone off to the Sunday roast, bring it back and thank God for the joy food brings. (*Ok be honest, pray that the preacher finishes before it burns!*) If it matters to us, it matters to God, and once we've brought it to him, we can get back to where we were.

Peter tells us: **Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Pet 5:7 NIV)**. His care stretches from loved ones who are ill or in trouble, to what is happening in the week, to all sorts of things that interest us and bring us pleasure, to the things we need to buy on the way home, or tomorrow, to issues at work, family matters – they all keep coming to mind – so why can't they come to church and be offered to God?

Next time your thoughts escape, why not go with them, and bring back whatever they have found into church, into prayer. Worship with all that is on your heart, all that is on your mind, and with all your energies, bringing all to him, and receiving his blessing in every area of life.

Love in Our Lord

Brian

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 Phil; for Margaret Hopwood and for her son Nick after his recent heart attack.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Anthony Harding as he represents Great Britain at the Paris Olympics in the synchronised diving with Jack Laugher- an amazing achievement!

A prayer for peace from the Church of England:

*We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

*We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

*We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

*We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

*Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.*

*Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;*

*and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;*

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Messages from the Leaders

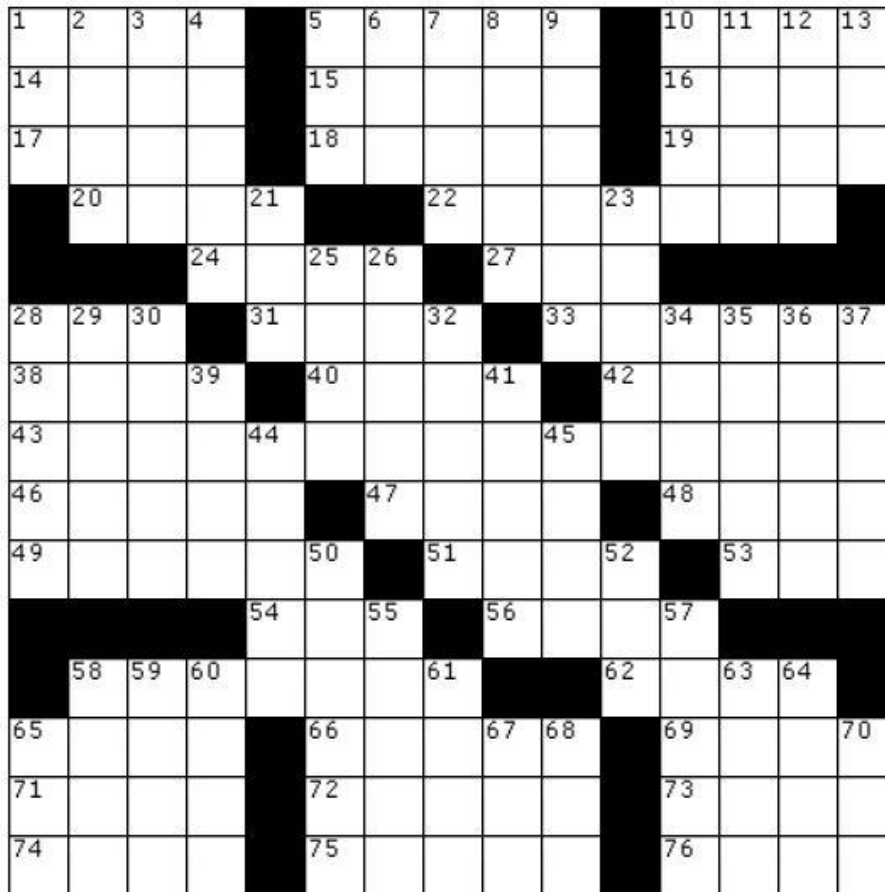
Please share any ideas and thoughts about some all-age services with Brian at a short meeting after the service on **Sunday 23rd June**.

Please also share any ideas and thoughts at our next congregation meeting, which will take place after the service on **Sunday 21st July**.

Clare Downing is leading our worship on July 28th. She is the URC Moderator for the NW Synod and many of you will remember her and her husband John when he was a student Minister at Beulah.

Please use your vote on July 4th and encourage others to do so. Ask any canvassers about their party's manifesto promises about social justice. Do they share the statements and actions of Jesus about loving your neighbour and standing up for the vulnerable and oppressed?

Please support the work of the URC Missional Partnership as they start a series of Bible Study sessions about the Holy Spirit, led by Sheila at Charlestown URC Church Ashton on Wednesday 19th June and for the following six weeks- see the poster on our church noticeboard in the Hall.



ACROSS

- 1 Plateau
- 5 Review
- 10 Business note
- 14 Mined metals
- 15 God of Islam
- 16 Imitated
- 17 Speed unit
- 18 Give ___ to God
- 19 Word written on the wall (Daniel)
- 20 Tier
- 22 Polka danced
- 24 Biblical word for You idiot!
- 27 Catholic sister
- 28 Ship initials
- 31 Sharpen by rubbing
- 33 Mire
- 38 Popular stadium
- 40 Avails
- 42 Cattle farm
- 43 A timely wish
- 46 Delete
- 47 Quarry
- 48 Place for the wicked

- 49 Yield
- 51 Son of Adam and Eve
- 53 Mole
- 54 Dickens' Tiny ___
- 56 ___ and Eve
- 58 Manipulative leader
- 62 Tons
- 65 Prego's competition
- 66 Reigned
- 69 Sandwich ingredient
- 71 OT prophet
- 72 Accustom
- 73 Tropical island
- 74 Net
- 75 Strict
- 76 Christmas

DOWN

- 1 Mother
- 2 Long time periods
- 3 Faction
- 4 Tribe of Israel
- 5 Remnant
- 6 Building addition

- 7 Clunk
- 8 Brother of Moses
- 9 Plant kingdom division
- 10 Mother
- 11 Dueling sword
- 12 Repair
- 13 Lyric poem
- 21 Animal foot
- 23 Seasoner makers
- 25 Friend
- 26 Fable writer
- 28 Guide
- 29 Take turns
- 30 Forms flower calyx
- 32 Small bright fish
- 34 Impulsive
- 35 Chilean mountain range
- 36 Head skin
- 37 Coyly
- 39 Niche
- 41 Cat food brand
- 44 Gossiper
- 45 Ogled
- 50 River of

- Mesopotamia
- 52 Fall behind
- 55 Sermon on the ___
- 57 Mother
- 58 Lady
- 59 Freudian selves
- 60 Hot cereal
- 61 Paste
- 63 Boyfriend
- 64 First king of Israel
- 65 Cram
- 67 Stray
- 68 Lair
- 70 Equal

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