



BEULAH CHRONICLE

The newsletter of:

Beulah Community Church

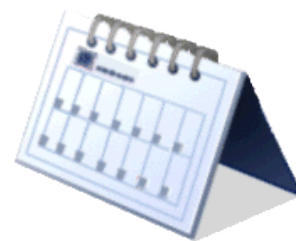
In association with the Baptist Union of Great Britain
and the United Reformed Church

www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk

Jan/Feb 2025 – No 111

Calendar

Sunday 12 th Jan	Service with Helen Mellor
Sunday 19 th Jan	Service with Rev Brian Davison
Sunday 26 th Jan	Service with Dorothy Kendrick
Sunday 2 nd Feb	Service with Rev Brian Davison Including communion
Sunday 9 th Feb	Service with Graham Laffey
Sunday 16 th Feb	Service with Rev Brian Davison
Sunday 23 rd Feb	Service with Sammy Spaine
Sunday 2 nd March	Service with Rev Brian Davison Including communion

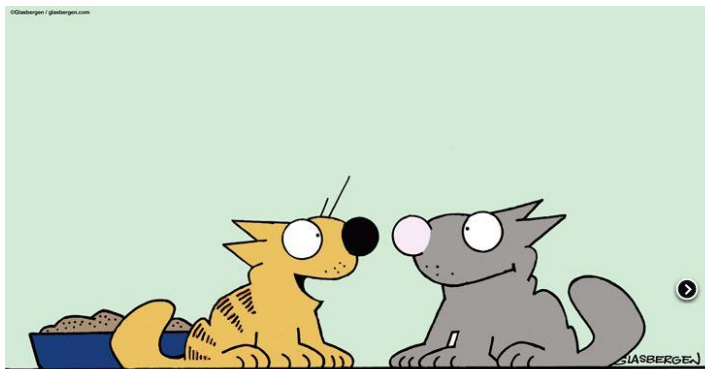


Our services will normally be live via zoom. The ID you need for any of Beulah's services is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315

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"I downloaded them from a cloud."



"Thou shalt not flush the dog's head down the toilet while he's getting a drink. The Bible never said that!"

Dear Friends,

As I had the tele on, on the recent snowy Sunday morning, to check the weather over the M62, I heard an interview with Nigel Farage, who was defending Elon Musk's very accusatory and inflammatory tweets against the Prime minister. (If we can still call messages on X "Tweets")

His argument was that he was in favour of unrestricted free speech, he should be free to say whatever he wants, and his hearers are free to take offence or not, as they wish. If we censored anything at which someone somewhere might take offence, then we would have an Orwellian society with the Thought Police censoring everything.

Of course his line of argument follows the usual fallacy of "one extreme or the other" rather than a line somewhere between the two, but I wonder if there might be more to the question for Christians beyond where to draw the line. What freedoms must we claim, and what can we use our freedom for, and what must we not use it for?

On the one hand we want the freedom to tell about Jesus, even if some do take offence even at the mention of his name, and much persecution has centred on preventing the gospel being shared. At times in history Christians have felt compelled to stand firm in their faith against authorities who tell them to deny our Lord, or to remain silent, and that is a clear exception to Paul's instructions to honour earthly authorities.

How should we use our freedom, and what should we not do with it?

Peter's instruction in 1 Peter 3:15 & 16 is informative: *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander"*.

Gentleness and Respect, not anger, aggression, belittling their beliefs, sarcasm etc.

The prayer *"O Lord, may my words today be tender and sweet, for tomorrow I may have to eat them,"* reminds us to be humble, and gentle whilst speaking the truth in love.

So even where we have complete uncensored unfettered freedom such as Nigel Farage speaks about (Ironically that freedom is one of the first things to disappear when an extremist government, right or left gets into in power) we cannot use it to cause gratuitous offence, engage in slander, or distort fact with exaggeration.

A few excerpts from the letter to James, chapter 3, give us further cautions: Indeed, it's worth reading the whole chapter in one go.....

2: *"We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check"*.

9-12: *"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."*

17-18: *"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness"*.

If our words are filled with truth and light, then they will highlight good, but will be disturbing to those who prefer darkness.

May the Lord place a guard on our tongues, to use them for his glory, and not for harm

Love in our Lord

Brian

What Do You Say?

*But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak,
they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

Matthew 12:36

If I should say within my heart when life is troublesome and sad,
There is a God, but where is He? He does not care though times are bad.
Then I must turn in helpless state, to find my help in One so great,
Who came to seek the weak and lost, and suffered at tremendous cost.
His love for me could not be known, until I had become His own.

If I should say I trust in Him, yet do not heed His written word;
He will not leave His discipline, till that which has been said is heard.
His word is clear and not abstruse; it stays effective by its use.

Our faith is but the vehicle to comprehend the miracle,
Of God incarnate on the Tree, where Jesus bled for you and me.

If you should say, I cannot solve the answer to my peace of mind.
Then go to Him who knows your heart; a Saviour who is good and kind.
He is our peace and constant Friend; our only hope to journey's end.
He died for all and rose again; He's coming soon in power to reign;
His word is sure and cannot fail; His love and justice will prevail.

Messages from the Leaders:

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with the events and services over Christmas- in delivering 300 cards in the local area; in planning and hosting the Lunch with Santa event where we had 24 children attend; for the Christingle and Carol services; for putting up (and hopefully taking down!) the Christmas tree and decorations; for the displays- so much to prepare and plan and so much work behind the scenes for which we are very grateful.

Please pray for a meeting with a local charity on Thursday 9th January to discuss whether we could host a baby clinic to run alongside our warm space. Thanks to Elaine for organising the warm space every week.

We have had a letter of thanks for the donations of £115 to Francis House after David Ireland led our service in November. Thanks received too for the donations to BMS of £63.

Among our fellowship

Please pray for Wynne after several falls and a hospital stay- pray that she gets the support she needs going forward; for Lucy; for Bob and Sylvia; for Phil; for all those who are housebound and feeling isolated.

We are thrilled at the recent news that Hadi, Fariba and family have been given leave to remain after Hadi's recent interview in Liverpool. It means they will have to move now within 56 days so pray for a good resolution to that, especially as both children have really settled into their schools. They thank everyone for their prayers.

Congratulations to everyone with birthdays in January and February and belated congratulations to Jane on her 60th birthday on Dec 23rd.

Do not bin your old stamps. Instead, recycle them, and raise money for charity.

Please keep your old used stamps and give them to Wynn who is collecting them to raise money for charity.



Items needed by the food bank

- **TINNED MEAT**
- **TINNED SOUP**
- **PASTA**
- **SHAMPOO**
- **DEODORANT**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Jam**
- **Microwave rice packet**
- **Washing powder**



The Tiny Frogs

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs.... who arranged a climbing competition.

The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. And so a big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on all the contestants.

The race began....

But quite honestly no one in the crowd really believed that such tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They were saying "It's way too difficult!!", they will never make it to the top," and "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one....Except for those who were a bit stronger and kept climbing higher and higher..

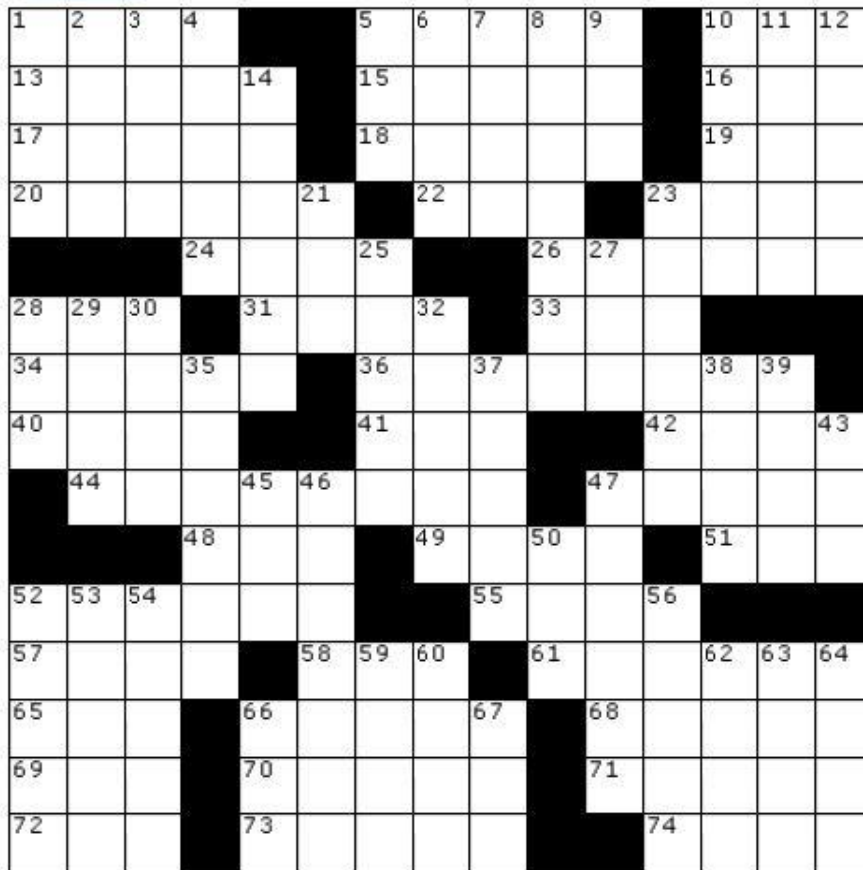
The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up....

But one continued higher and higher and higher long after all of the others had given up and dropped back down to the bottom and he, after a big effort, actually made it to the top!

All of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it.

One contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach his goal! But he didn't hear him, and he shouted the question again but he still didn't hear, so he shouted at the top of his voice, which was really loud for such a tiny frog. But he still couldn't hear him, he was deaf!

How much more could we do if we, like the frog turned a deaf ear to all those who say we can't
.....Author Unknown.....



ACROSS

- 1 Oceans
- 5 Shoulder covering
- 10 Accountant
- 13 A seasonal wish, with 48A & 64D
- 15 Bulgarian capital
- 16 Every
- 17 Release
- 18 For God so loved the __
- 19 Sleep
- 20 Sewing need
- 22 Spacecraft detachment
- 23 Does (KJV)
- 24 Sleigh
- 26 Eye part
- 28 Surface to air missile
- 31 A king of the Amalekites
- 33 Exist
- 34 Put up
- 36 Seasonal sport
- 40 Jesus turned

- water into wine here
- 41 Pro
- 42 Send by post
- 44 Deceived
- 47 Large wide scarf
- 48 See 13A
- 49 Bark
- 51 The __ (final word)
- 52 Spry
- 55 Uncommon
- 57 David's musical instrument
- 58 Transgression
- 61 Former Indian city
- 65 Epoch
- 66 Tramps
- 68 Sibling's daughter
- 69 Boxer Muhammad
- 70 Protein part, with 'acid'
- 71 Inscribed pillar
- 72 Tribe of Israel
- 73 Subatomic particle

- 74 Goad
- DOWN**
- 1 Lower leg
- 2 Relieve
- 3 Church part
- 4 Potatoes
- 5 Compass point
- 6 Hula __
- 7 Hairstyle
- 8 Puma
- 9 Fellow
- 10 Authoritative list of scripture
- 11 Eating dish
- 12 I am the __ and the Omega
- 14 Berate (2 wds.)
- 21 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 23 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
- 25 Batty
- 27 Globe
- 28 Part of a min.
- 29 Middle East dweller

- 30 Word interpreted by Daniel
- 32 Sticky
- 35 Cat toy stuffing
- 37 Demand
- 38 Do up shoes
- 39 Daniel was thrown into the __s' den
- 43 Type of partnership
- 45 Reverend (abbr.)
- 46 Amazing
- 47 Cooks' wear
- 50 Scientist's office
- 52 Leading
- 53 Waitress on Cheers
- 54 Teach
- 56 Gives off
- 59 Wading bird
- 60 Taboo
- 62 Toot
- 63 American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
- 64 See 13A

- 66 Youngest son of Noah
- 67 Child

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