



# 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](http://www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk)

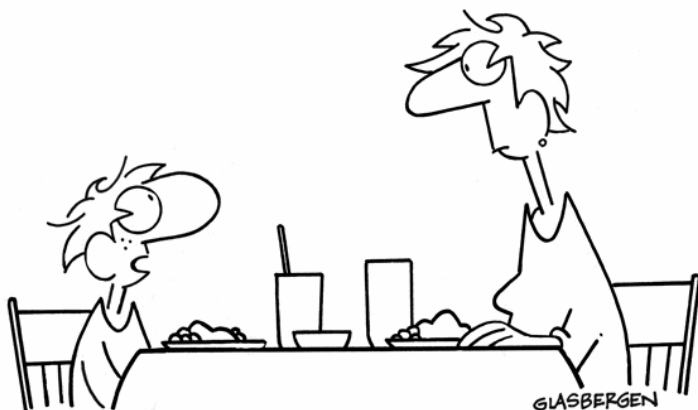
May/June 2024 – No 107

### Calendar

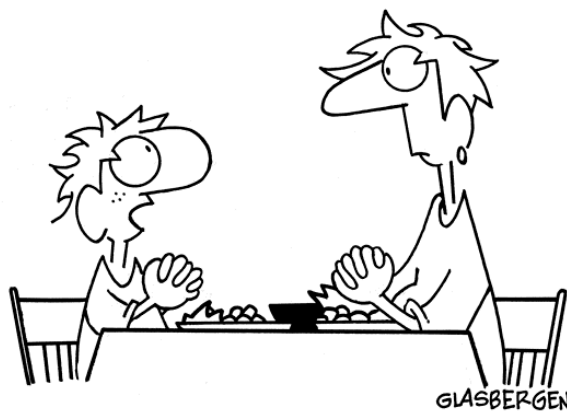


|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May   | Service with Rev Brian Davison<br>Including communion  |
| Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May  | Service with David Hey- Secretary of Albion URC Church |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May  | Service with Graham Laffey                             |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May  | Service Led by the Leaders                             |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June  | Joint service at Macedonia URC at <b>10.30 a.m.</b>    |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> June  | Service with Judith Haughton                           |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June | Service with Rev Brian Davison                         |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June | Service with Rev Brian Davison                         |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June | Service with Dorothy Kendrick                          |

**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**



**"If God wanted me to eat carrots,  
He wouldn't hide them underground!"**



**"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables,  
why did He make them taste like vegetables?"**

Hi folks,

As we continue to think about how we connect with our community, and serve God here, how we encourage out young people in faith, as well as the every present concern about numbers, a much used verse springs to mind. Indeed I myself have quoted it often...Jeremiah 29:11-14 NIV *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (12) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (13) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (14) I will be found by you," declares the LORD, .....*

The first part is oft quoted and we focus on the positive plans God has for us, looking forward to them coming to fruition. Practical things, and although he is behind them, earthly things, people, events, numbers etc.

But notice the next verses – notice the basis of the plans, the first step *"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. (13) You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (14) I will be found by you,"*

The very first part of his wonderful plan is not about what he will do for us in practical terms, not about when it will happen, but in fact about deepening our relationship with him.

He is speaking to a people who were about to go into exile, because they had left God out of their plans, messed around with other Gods, and forgotten in their dealing with one another that each was loved by God – Justice had gone out the window.

The news that they have gone too far, and consequences are to follow is followed by promise of his presence even during the exile, and relief and restoration to come.

They are looking for when he will give their land back to them.

But He is looking at a plan in which first they come back to him in spirit..

I hope we have not fallen away like the people in Jeremiah's day, but all the same, God's plan for us begins in the same place. Our concerns may be practical, but to God they are secondary behind the most important things for his church - knowing him more and more deeply, calling upon him, seeking him in prayer, fasting (those who are able and willing), seeking to know him more deeply, be more moulded into his image.

And the rest will follow. Plans to prosper us in his work, to share the depths of his love with all who will receive, to reflect God's wonderful generosity, to spread Godly joy and laughter, to live in "knowing him" so openly that others "want some of what they've got".

Let us call upon God to do his thing within us, and then in our neighbourhood.

Grace and Peace be with us all

Brian

## **God turns up at the BAFTAs - by Justin Brierley.**

'I believe in God.'

Those words made me sit up and listen when they were uttered by Samantha Morton during her acceptance speech for the BAFTA fellowship award on Sunday night.

Morton, who has starred in blockbusters such as *Minority Report* and *Fantastic Beasts*, also directed the 2009 movie *Unloved*, which she said was about 'faith, hope and forgiveness'.

Morton is a committed Catholic. And she's not the only celebrity who has been willing to share their faith from a public platform.

A few years ago, Hollywood actor Chris Pratt shared his Christian faith during an MTV awards ceremony, saying 'God is real. God loves you. God wants the best for you. Believe that.' Likewise England football player Bukayo Saka frequently gives thanks to God in post-match press conferences.

This increasing willingness among public figures to talk about their faith marks a change in the spiritual atmosphere in recent years. During the height of so-called 'New Atheism' in the mid-2000s, it was rather unfashionable to admit you believed in God. Bestselling atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens were pouring scorn on anybody who admitted to having a faith.

So, what's changed?

In part, the new atheist movement itself became over-zealous and shouty. But, it also turns out you can't eradicate the religious impulse. Indeed, even in our very secular age, I'm surprised by how many thinking people are converting to Christian faith.

One of them is Paul Kingsnorth, a celebrated writer and poet, who surprised his audience by announcing his conversion in 2021. Speaking on my [Surprising Rebirth](#) podcast, Kingsnorth explained why he believes many people are waking up to the need for God, saying that the search for the divine 'has always been at the centre of every culture... except this one... which has decided to pretend that's not real for a bit.'

Another high-profile thinker reminding secular people about God is the historian Tom Holland, co-host of the hugely popular *The Rest Is History* podcast. I trace Holland's own intellectual and spiritual journey in my book [The Surprising Rebirth Of Belief In God](#).

Holland is among a number of secular thinkers who are reconsidering the value of Christianity in the wake of new atheism's collapse and the growth of a 'meaning crisis' in our culture.

Whether God gets celebrity endorsements or not, I think the tide is turning in our post-Christian culture. Think about your everyday life – you might just be surprised where God turns up next.

*Justin Brierley is a broadcaster, speaker, and author of [The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God: Why new atheism grew old and secular thinkers are considering Christianity again](#). He also hosts the [Surprising Rebirth](#) documentary podcast. Find him at [www.justinbrierley.com](http://www.justinbrierley.com).*

### 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 Delia; for Margaret Hopwood; for Mary Howarth who has broken her wrist, for Jayne and her family and Lilian after the death on the 5<sup>th</sup> March of Margaret Helliwell- a dearly loved Mum, Grandma and sister.

We remember with gratitude the life of Margaret, and thank God for her loyal service over so many years- first at Beulah and then at Shaw U.R.C church after they moved to Shaw. Margaret did so much in her time at Beulah, particularly as Leader of the Sunday School and she carried on her service as an Elder at Shaw. It was clear throughout her life that she put God at the centre. A poem that her son-in-law Craig wrote about her is attached to this newsletter.

Please pray for discussions taking place within the Baptist Union currently and pray that further division can be avoided.

### A prayer for peace:

God of wholeness, God of Grace,  
to you we bring our thanks and praise.  
To a world that searches  
you are a lamp that shines,  
to a world that is hungry  
you are food that sustains,  
to a world that suffers  
you are hope of release,  
to a world that's broken  
you are one who restores,  
to a world full of hate  
you are love that forgives,  
to a world that denies  
you are truth that endures.  
To you we bring our thanks and praise,  
God of wholeness, God of Grace.



©John Birch

### News from the Leaders

A big thank you to everyone who attended our recent A.G.M and for the offers of help we have received. Particular thanks to Janet and Delia who have offered to try to sort out our archive material- no mean task!

A belated happy birthday  
to Lucy, Elaine Everet (95!)  
and also to Pouya !

Happy Birthday at the end of  
May to Mary Howarth who will  
be 96.



“Our Margaret”

by Craig Brotherdale

Just another sentence? Or maybe a smile?  
One extra day? Just a little while?  
No time can be ever enough,  
to be ready to lose one that we love.

Pain and loss for those left behind.  
Yet we sometimes smile as thoughts come to mind.  
Her spark, her drive, trips out for a brew,  
her love of the church and a handbag or two.

She crafted and painted, was funny and kind.  
She made you smile as she spoke her mind.  
Childhood scrapbook full of Christian song.  
Family and church, where she belongs.

Maggie too will miss her and the treats she gave.  
Her cuddles and teasing and the chair she'd save.  
Grandchildren spoiled even more than the dog.  
The love they still feel, a lasting reward.

Her catchphrase 'Oh Brian' as she grabbed the hand vac.  
He'd smile o'er her shoulder as she hoovered his slacks.

In life, we don't know all the bonds that we make.  
But her Yin to his Yang even death could not break.  
Her neighbours will miss her, her family bereft.  
We feel the void, the space that she's left.

She wanted no sadness, no mourning dress.  
Bright garb to adorn us as we lay her to rest.  
But she surely knew the hole she would leave,  
a daughter, grandchildren, and sister to grieve.

Her journey, though, has not come to an end.  
Still, she's mother, grandmother, sister and friend.  
In this world, her flame brought so much light,  
brighter now still as lost loves unite.

This life is short as the eons go by.  
Our time on earth, the blink of an eye.  
As such, our mourning can be endured.  
If we live as she did, reunion assured.

## **The bus is coming.**

Thanks to the generosity of many people we have now booked advertising on buses across the whole of Scotland. 60 buses in Edinburgh, 60 in Glasgow, 15 in Dundee, 20 in Aberdeen, 10 in Inverness... in fact, every available bus depot in Scotland will have buses with trypraying adverts on the rear panels. 310 in total across the whole country. If you gave money to help this, thank you very much. The campaign will begin on 18th March and run for a month.

In addition to this there will be advertising in Devon, in April and May, banners on hundreds of churches across the whole of the UK and social media postings.

Want to join in? Trypraying Spring 2024: [join in](#). Promo video: [the idea](#)

It's a simple thing.

Order booklets and banners and chose a couple of Sundays to feature it in your church. Give everyone a booklet to use and then to pass on to friends. Pray in the weeks preceding and gather stories the weeks following. Simple. You can Order materials here.

## **Extraordinary change.**

Catching the wave is a prayer event for **ordinary people praying for extraordinary change** on Monday 11th March at 7.30 p.m. Pray wherever you are or in-person at Kings Church, 104 Gilmour Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9PL. This will launch the trypraying project one week ahead of the advertising across Scotland.

If you are within travelling distance do come to this meeting. It will be a simple event with worship, prayer, stories and encouragement. If you are not within easy distance then you could join in at the same time by praying for extraordinary change in your area.

## **Not weird.**

The webinar last week about 'Sharing our Faith without being Weird' was attended by over 70 people. The priority of the Great Commision, the power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to witness and building genuine relationships were all emphasised. When it came to focussing on trypraying, people were encouraged to use a couple of phrases when in conversations: To introduce the booklet, 'This is a prayer guide for people who are not religious and who don't do church.'

And when handing the booklet over, 'Why don't you try praying for a week and see what happens.'

It was said there are far more ways to share our faith than handing over a booklet. But this is one way.

Thanks for reading, praying and engaging.

*The trypraying team.*



## **Church Contacts**

**Minister:** Rev Brian Davison, Tel: 07463 629039 , email: [briand.beulah@gmail.com](mailto:briand.beulah@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Alison Cheetham, email: [cheethams5658@gmail.com](mailto:cheethams5658@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jane Wilkinson, email: [jane@wilkinsonclan.co.uk](mailto:jane@wilkinsonclan.co.uk)

**Editor:** Iain Wilkinson, email: [iain@wilkinsonclan.co.uk](mailto:iain@wilkinsonclan.co.uk)

