



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

March/April 2025 – No 112

Calendar

Sunday 2nd March: Rev. Brian Davison – service to include Communion

Sunday 9th March: Lee Proudlove- representative of Open Doors (an organisation serving persecuted Christians worldwide)

Sunday 16th March: Rev. Brian Davison – followed by the AGM

Sunday 23rd March: Judith Haughton

Sunday 30th March: Rev. Sheila Coop

Sunday 6th April: Rev. Brian Davison- service to include Communion

Sunday 13th April: Rev. Graham Tarn

Friday 18th April: Good Friday service at Macedonia URC Church at 10.30 (tbc)

Sunday 20th April: Easter Day service

Sunday 27th April: Lawrence Heath Moore- URC Mission Mentor

Sunday 4th May- Brian's last service at Beulah



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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"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"

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"Wind-powered wings for transportation, solar-powered halos
for light...why aren't they using this technology back on Earth?"

Dear Friends,

As members of "The Free Churches", Congregationalists and Baptists, religious liberty is central to both our history and our core beliefs. It was the right of individuals to read and interpret scripture for themselves, that led our forefathers to a theology of church as the gathered congregation of the faithful, those who had expressed a personal faith, rather than simply those who belonged in the Parish of the Church of England.

This discovery itself was only possible following the brave and sacrificial work of Tyndale, to enable the bible to be available in English, not just Latin, for the people to read.

For Baptists this led to the further development of Believer's Baptism of those able to choose for themselves, rather than the wider practice of Infant Baptism, to be confirmed later. (This is not the place to discuss the reasons for each practice).

But the establishment of the gathered church was costly. Churches had to be hidden in woodland, the location known only to those committed as members, and eventually a group of Baptists fled to the Netherlands until Britain was more open to religious liberty.

Now we speak freely of religious liberty, and compare our lot to totalitarian states such as many under Islam, and, in the past, Communist states where Atheism was the prescribed belief. But what nowadays do we gain by religious liberty, and what does it cost us?

Well, it is vital to the existence of so many various churches, and our ability to think differently on many issues, yet remain one in Christ.

So, what does it cost us? Well religious liberty means we no longer have blasphemy laws, or at least they are not enforced, so all the protests about Jerry Springer, The Last Temptation of Christ etc were not supported by law. However, many Christians saw such controversies as an opportunity to talk about what we do believe, rather than declare outrage. "God is their judge and he can look after himself" was one view.

On the whole, compared to places where people are imprisoned for their faith, or killed, I think we gain more than we lose from religious liberty.

But it needs to be protected. As things stand no religion in the UK has any more protection against offence, what they might perceive as blasphemy, than any other. Racial or religious hatred is another thing entirely, and must be robustly dealt with, and attacks on particular people or people groups.

But that is very different to the discussion of belief faith and practice. The freedom to discuss, debate, or even make choices according to our beliefs is core to our society.

This is why many Christians are concerned about the wording of the new definition of "Islamophobia" from the new Council recently set up by the government. Of course, we need to take a firm stand against Racism and incitement to hatred, true Islamophobia and Anti Semitism, among other expressions of racism common today.

But the wording of the definition is too vague, and despite a paragraph buried deep in the wording of the bill seeking to clarify that it is not intended to stifle debate or criticism of the beliefs of Islam, on the surface the definition that Islamophobia is "rooted in racism and a type of racism which targets Muslimness or perceived Muslimness", will far too easily confuse discussion about the specifics of Islamic practices, and especially the availability of alternatives with racism, despite many Muslims being English converts.

The bill is well intended, to stop a specific form of racism, but poorly worded and could too easily be misused to curb religious liberty, or free speech in general. There is a petition which can be found on the Christian Concern website, or you may prefer to write to your MP using your own words if you are concerned. It is not the **intent** of the bill, but the **vague wording** that is concerning.

That aside, we do well to remember that we do stand for religious liberty, and without it we limit our own freedom to spread the good news about Jesus. Remember when you see things that you find distasteful as a Christian, that that is the freedom our forefathers died for, and that it is also an opening not to vent disgust, but instead to engage in discussion about who Jesus really was, why he is special to us, and how whatever was causing the offence does not represent Jesus or God as you know and experience him.

Peter put it rather well... "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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," 1 Peter 3:15.

Albion Church 130th Anniversary Celebrations

Join us for a special

ORGAN CONCERT

with displays of the Church's History



Sunday 6th April 2025 at 3-00pm

FREE admission - Retiring collection

Doors open from 2.00pm; refreshments available



With International
Concert Organist

GORDON STEWART

Gordon will be playing a
programme of uplifting music
by Bach, Phillips, Carter, Bossi,
Hollins and Renaud.

Albion United Reformed Church,
Stamford Street East,
Ashton-u-Lyne. OL6 6QQ

www.albionurc.org.uk - www.gordonstewart.org



Messages from the Leaders:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the baptism service, especially Steve and Ian who ensured the baptistery was working properly in advance and on the day; Julie for buying and arranging the flowers and Jane for ordering and collecting the pies! Everyone who participated in the service and those who washed up!

Thanks to Elaine for staffing the warm space every week and liaising with the Spark charity which provide the Baby Boogie session.

We have considered 3 quotes to replace the flooring in the entrance/ coffee lounge and corridor leading to the Church and hope that this work can be carried out in the Easter holidays. This should make a huge difference to the impression you get as you come into the Hall.

We have been thinking about how we can engage better with other local churches and work together to serve our community, so pray for the conversations with Macedonia/ Roman Rd and Hollins Millgate to bear fruit.

For your prayers

Please pray for Wynne as she recovers from her recent knee operation- she has had a couple of falls since returning home from hospital and is need of increased care; for Fariba Hadi and family as they deal with mixed messages from SERCO about when they have to leave their current house on Hollins Rd and try to find permanent accommodation; Giles- the Convenor of the Missional Partnership after a health issue that will stop him driving for 6 months; Bob and Sylvia; Phil; Marleigh, all those who are housebound and feeling isolated.

It was a joy to see Fariba, Hadi and Pouya witness to their faith by being baptised recently and we pray for their continued growth as Christians. Pray also for Arshida as she was dedicated in that same service – that we support her parents in bringing her up in the Christian faith. Pray for Brian as he plans for the future after his retirement, and for us as a church as we listen to where God is leading us now.

Pray for the continued growth of the Baby Boogie session which is growing in numbers and which is building good relationships with the families attending.

Pray for peace in the many areas of conflict in the world and for all the efforts to bring lasting peace.

Looking ahead!

Sunday 4th May- Brian's last service at Beulah

Saturday 24th May- an afternoon event at Beulah to celebrate Brian's Ministry,

Sunday 25th May- a joint service at Haggate Baptist Church, Burnley for Brian's final service of his paid Ministry. The service will be followed by lunch at the local pub. Transport can be provided for people able to go across to Burnley.

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**

Four worms and a lesson to be learned !!!

A Minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good, clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol ... Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke ... Dead.

The third worm in chocolate syrup ... Dead.

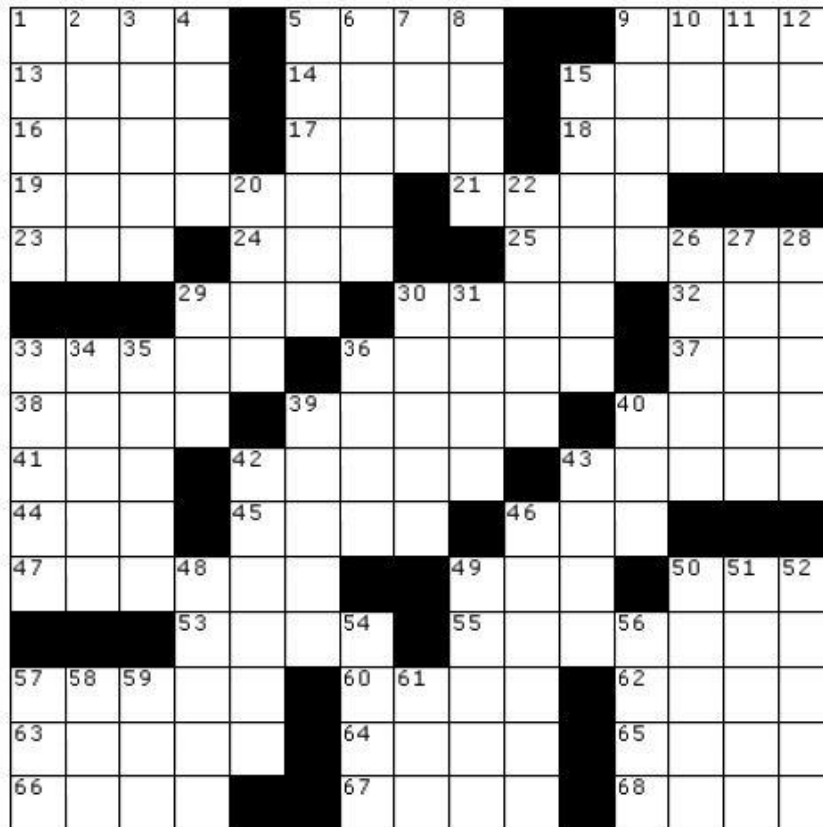
The fourth worm in good, clean soil ... Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back and quickly raised her hand and said,

"As long as you drink, smoke, and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

That pretty much ended the service !!



ACROSS

- 1 Hook
- 5 Essence
- 9 Scoff
- 13 Dinner bread
- 14 Son of Seth
- 15 More angry
- 16 Opera solo
- 17 Zilch
- 18 Minor Jewish prophet
- 19 First Christian martyr
- 21 Scarce
- 23 Pops
- 24 Adam and ____
- 25 Capital of Saudi Arabia
- 29 Wing
- 30 Fun
- 32 Utter
- 33 Satan
- 36 __ out (panic)
- 37 Sing
- 38 Foray
- 39 Animals from Daniel
- 40 Pennsylvania

(abbr.)

- 41 Pride
- 42 Sandwich meats
- 43 Wheeled tables
- 44 Entire
- 45 Economics abrv.
- 46 Youngest son of Noah
- 47 Less nice
- 49 Caesar's seven
- 50 Accountant
- 53 Fresh
- 55 Brilliant
- 57 Sandwich cookies brand
- 60 Talk about, with "over"
- 62 Juice solids
- 63 Card game
- 64 Graven image
- 65 Otherwise
- 66 Decorative needle case
- 67 Right-winger
- 68 Garden of ____

DOWN

- 1 Have in one's hands

- 2 Main artery
- 3 Plague of Egypt
- 4 What birds' wings do
- 5 Swiss city
- 6 Silly
- 7 Turf
- 8 Russian ruler
- 9 Sticky
- 10 Internal Revenue Service
- 11 Spelling contest
- 12 Time period
- 15 Yell
- 20 Place for the wicked
- 22 Regions
- 26 Tribe of Israel
- 27 Scare
- 28 Religious songs
- 29 Assist
- 30 Moan
- 31 Optical device
- 33 Had by Joseph, Joseph and magi
- 34 Cliff dwelling bird
- 35 Stringed

- instrument
- 36 Pale sherry
- 39 Filthy ____
- 40 Highest trump in some loo
- 42 Little
- 43 Adam's son
- 46 "I think __ of him"
- 48 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 49 Eyeshade
- 50 Might
- 51 Heartbeat
- 52 Birch-like tree
- 54 Bit
- 56 Fencing sword
- 57 Unrefined metal
- 58 Furrow
- 59 Flightless bird
- 61 Hoopla

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