

Beulah Update:
Weds 2nd December
This week's theme is: Waiting



1. Worship resources

On **Sunday 6th December**, we hope our Zoom service will include a reflection from our link missionaries in Mozambique- Sergio and Liz Vilela, so please join us if you can. The log in details are the same as usual:

The ID you need is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315.

Please share with any family or friends or former members of the congregation that you are in contact with. If you don't have internet you can join in by ringing one of the following numbers:

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom .

The service on Sunday 13th December will be on Zoom- details TBC!

The next mid week service led by Ruth Wollaston is on Thurs 3rd December at 2 p.m. Please try to support her by joining this if you can. The Zoom details are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88260933040> **Meeting ID: 882 6093 3040**

Tel +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom or +44 203 901 7895

Usual services and reflections from the home pages of the NWBA, where there is also an Advent Calendar with readings; the URC; and Sheila's weekly services from the new Macedonia website: <https://macedonia-urc.org>

Thanks to Dorothy for the weekly Vine.

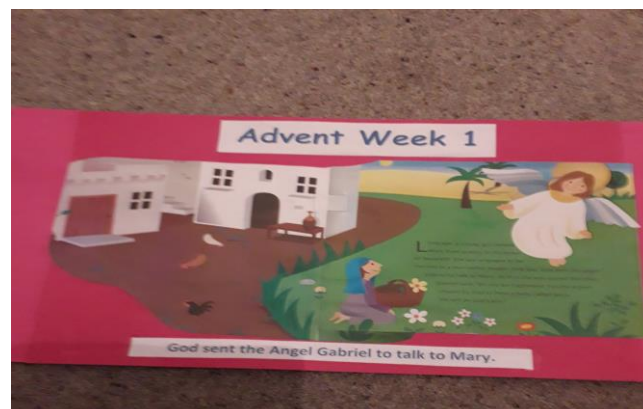
Sheila is leading a series of Advent discussions on the theme of Angels. Are they real? Are they little chubby children with wings? Do you have a Guardian Angel? They take place on Tuesday evenings at 7.30. The first session looks at Angels of Power. Please join in this initiative. The Zoom log in details are as follows: ID: 936 519 5146

Password: 1251 or dial in on 0203 901 7895



Thanks to Julie for creating posters to put up on the Hall doors so that Parents bringing children to the pre-school will see them. There are activities for children to do too and the Pre-school Leaders are giving these out for us. Check out our Church website to see all the posters and the tiny Advent poems for each day. Thanks to Iain for keeping the website up to date:

<https://www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk/>



2. News from our fellowship and issues to pray for:

We are asking everyone to set aside 20 minutes on Saturday mornings from 10.00 until 10-20 and pray together for all the members of our congregation in their different situations, and in particular for the people and issues below:

Please continue to ring people to ease the isolation and anxiety during the extra restrictions in Oldham.

Pray for all those we know who are grieving after the death of loved ones, We remember Doreen and family on the death of her sister Anne. Please also pray for Elaine and for her health concerns.

Pray for those we know recovering from Covid and for all those who are working on the front line in whatever way.

Pray for others with health worries- for Elsa who is now in the Stamford Unit and awaiting a 24 hour care placement; for Peter who continues to make progress in his recovery and appreciates the prayers and messages; for David R and Dorothy as they recover from Covid and David from his foot operation; for Jackie B; for Betty; for Andy Longden; for Joe; for Peter, Steve's brother-in-law and Rev Ian Cook, recovering from strokes; for Millie; for Wally, who had a day operation on 24th Nov and will have to have further treatment; for all those who are housebound for whatever reason.

Pray for all those we know in care homes and who cannot have the normal visits from family and friends, and for their families who worry about them- for Mary Norris; for Irene Binns.

Pray for those with other anxieties- for Carol and her housing situation.

Read the latest blog from the Vilela family on our website:

www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk/missions. They ask us to pray for those suffering from the virus in Mozambique; for the health of the BMS team; for peace in N. Mozambique, where there has been fighting and conflict.

Congratulations to Mary Norris on the birth of a great-grandson in Canada -Ayden

A belated happy birthday to Faith and a happy 1st birthday to Steve and Jill's granddaughter Isla on the 8th Dec.



A prayer for others from Roots on the web

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We pray for those who have waited for years for the dawn...

those for whom hope seems dim...

those whose morning brought the unexpected...

those struggling to adjust to new realities...

those whose fires have grown dim...

those who are ignoring the signs of the times...

those who are struggling to keep awake...

Amen.

3. Messages from the Leaders

- We discussed the restrictions that will be in place after the national lockdown ends. We took into account the views that had been passed on to us and decided that the majority of our congregation do not want to come to the building due to health worries, concerns about transport or feeling that the service won't be the same if we have to wear masks and cannot sing. It was felt that although the Zoom services are clearly not ideal, they do allow us to get together virtually and we can sing along. We will continue with the Zoom services through December and review the situation again at the start of January. We are going to explore the possibility of arranging some outdoor singing or witness with other churches that might be interested. Please do share your views about the services or options you would like us to explore.
- The Leaders will be distributing the offering envelopes shortly but please be aware that Jane has altered the numbers so that we are more cost effective! She has a record of the new numbers so if you use Gift Aid it will still be recorded.
- We have obviously been unable to have a Church meeting during the pandemic. The Leaders are taking decisions prayerfully and are asking for your views on important decisions, such as re-opening the building. We could organise a meeting using Zoom- if you would like this to happen then please contact any Leader.
- Thank you for the donations sent to Jane for BMS after our service with Joy Ransom, which amounted to £115. Ali has not been able to collect the missionary boxes as usual. If yours is full and needs to be collected, please contact her.
- Julie ordered some books entitled "A Christ-messy story" to pass round the congregation. These are in the process of being distributed.

Julie has sent this message about: **HOPE**

After an extremely challenging year in 2020, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season, in which we eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on **hope**.

It's a chance to remember the hope God offers to our world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

In his book "Soul Fuel" the adventurer and explorer Bear Grylls says:-

"Whenever we find ourselves wondering how we are going to get through the tough times, the answer is found in where we look for our hope. Being hopeful is much more than mere wishful thinking. Because of what of what Christ did for us, we have total confidence in being full of hopefulness. And because of the way the Holy Spirit works, there's a constant source of hope being nurtured and tended deep inside us." In the Bible it says:-

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13



Thank you to Ian and Steve for overseeing all the maintenance work over the last few months. Steve has repainted the coffee lounge and the ceiling in the Church, where the re-plastering has been done. The wall outside the Church is in the process of being re-pointed- this should be finished this week.



4. Weekly Challenges

Some examples of the challenges from the CofE Advent calendar, which you can find on our website under Countdown to Christmas.

“Some people will be sad that they can’t go to a carol service. Make a poster of your favourite carol to put in the window to cheer everyone up.”

“Pour a glass of water. Add a teaspoon of mud to it, stir and place it in your kitchen. In some parts of the world children only have access to water like this. Each time you see your glass today, pray for agencies like Water Aid, trying to bring clean water to children across the world.

Listen to this song called “While I’m waiting” by John Waller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6X71sXagUY>

5. Quiz questions – how long?!

A. Roughly how long does it take for the sun’s light to reach Earth – 8 minutes, 8 hours or 8 day

B. How long since Britain had a King?

C. How long since Britain won a Gold medal at the Winter Olympics?

Answers at the bottom of the page!

6. Christmas greetings

Elaine Hamilton won’t be sending Christmas cards out, but has asked us to pass on her best wishes to everyone and thanks for your prayers.

Vera would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Julie sends her greetings and will be donating to Scope, the cerebral palsy charity. If anyone else would like to use the next edition of the newsletter (Weds 16th Dec) to send greetings to our fellowship in lieu of cards then please get in touch with Alison on 0161 624 5510 or cheethams5658@gmail.com



7. Food bank

Louize and Anna have been collecting times to take to Booth Street on the 8th Dec. If you would like to add any items to their collection you can drop them off with Louize’s Mum Joan on Withins Rd. See the link to their website for items they need. Any cash donations this Christmas will be doubled by some generous donors- see the information on the website.

<https://www.boothcentre.org.uk/donate-items.html>

Quiz answers:

A; 8 minutes B : Feb 6th 1952 C 2018- Lizzy Yarnold retained her title