



Beulah Update: Weds 16th June

This week's theme: Facing the storm!

1. Worship resources.

- Our service on **Sunday 20th June will be at Beulah at 11 a.m. and will be led by Sammy Spaine.** We hope as many as feel able will join us for this service. We will continue to offer refreshments after the service outside the Church. Thanks to Ian for sorting this and to the Kamrans for helping to serve it.

- We had planned to hold our postponed AGM on **Sunday June 27th.** We have important issues to discuss and decisions to make, so we have decided to go ahead as planned, even though restrictions will still be in place. The service will focus on prayer for our church, our neighbourhood, our town and country and will last about 30 minutes. The meeting will follow and we need as many as possible to join us and contribute to the discussions. Refreshments will be provided.

-On the **evening of the 27th** the URC Missional Partnership is holding their monthly united service at 6.30 p.m. on Zoom, led by Sheila. This is a real opportunity to worship with the other 8 churches in the fellowship, so we hope as many as possible will log in or ring in. ID: 826-6191-5691 P/word: 694220



-We are aware that several members of our fellowship aren't able to join us so we are exploring how we can cater for them.

-The usual online services and reflections continue for the moment and can be found on the home pages of the NWBA and the URC, and Sheila's weekly services from the Macedonia website: <https://macedonia-urc.org>

-Thanks to Dorothy for the weekly Vine.

-The short midweek services led by Ruth have stopped for the Summer.

-Graham Tarn is continuing his weekly Bible Study sessions (he describes them as a friendly informal chat) on a Tues evening at 7-30 via Zoom. Log in details are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86712033672?pwd=a1pCVUI5eHNGBDZtZktiSFhxdFJBUU09> Meeting ID: 867 1203 3672 Passcode: 694220

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:

Pray for all those we know who are grieving after the recent deaths of loved ones, especially Gillian (daughter of May Smith) and John Keating, whose 13 year old son, Shane, died suddenly the week before last. We send our love and sympathy to the family and will think of them especially at his funeral on Tues 22nd June.

We send our deepest sympathy and love too to Julie, Frank and family and Julie's brother David and his family on the death of their mum Mary yesterday. We thank God for her life and for all the love and care she gave and received.

Pray for those with health issues, especially for Betty, who is now in a 24 hour care facility in Eire and for Phil and Lynn; for Bob B, who is in hospital, but hoping to be discharged soon; for Fred; for Millie; for Ian Wh and the results of his scans; for Wynne after her fall and further tests; for Irene; for Peter; for Mavis Pr; for Vera, now

in Butler Green; for Carol's sister-in-law who has kidney problems; for all those who are housebound for whatever reason.

Pray that the easing of restrictions will continue smoothly and will not result in a rise in hospitalizations, especially given the Indian variant.

Pray for Azeena as she looks for a job after finishing her degree.

Pray for those with other anxieties- for Carol and her housing situation, especially now things are moving again .

We had this recent news from Joy Ransom in Nepal after an e mail to ask how things were after the recent earthquakes:

"The earthquakes have stopped now although we are still getting the occasional after shock. The local government has provided tents for the families whose homes were damaged so at least they have somewhere dry to stay. The landslides blocking the roads have also been cleared. However, even if they can afford it, I think it will take a while before they can rebuild, as we are still in tight lockdown and getting resources and equipment to the villages is impossible. Even my neighbours who have relatives affected are unable to visit to offer support at the moment. The local hospital here did an amazing job of treating the victims, which fortunately were few, as well as coping with the increasing number of covid patients requiring oxygen. They were able to build an oxygen producing plant within a week recently and are now providing oxygen to all the medical facilities in the district. Some of the doctor's accommodation blocks were also damaged in the earthquake although they were quite old. Across the country though medical supplies are limited. At the UMN mission hospital in Tansen, where I used to work, the oxygen plant can't keep up with demand and even though there are empty beds in the hospital they can't treat any more covid patients. Currently they are raising support to extend the capacity of the plant. There have been some donations of PPE, oxygen cylinders and medicines from abroad but so far very few vaccines. I hear that some have been promised from the USA, Europe and the UK but they are not here yet. So far only 1% of the population has had 2 vaccines. A first dose of the astrazeneca vaccine from India was given to many of those over 65, but there is now no supply to give their second dose. There are some hopeful signs that the peak of infections has been reached as daily numbers are decreasing. especially in Kathmandu. This week the recorded daily death rate is less than 100 for the first time since early March. The actual numbers however are estimated to be 30 times higher than that and there are reports of increased infections in villages where testing is not possible and there is limited access to hospital care.

I am doing fine and am encouraged that, although my planned and expected routine of work has been interrupted, I daily have opportunities to speak to people, help teachers and students and work with colleagues to prepare resources for the future. I would appreciate prayers for strength as it is very hot here just now. The temperature has been over 30 degrees for the past 2 weeks. Sleeping is difficult and I have been feeling a little under the weather, with a stomach infection. "

You will want to pray for Joy and the people of Nepal and other poor countries- that the distribution of equipment and vaccines is done fairly so that Covid is contained across the globe.

We have had a prayer letter too from the Vilela family in Beira, Mozambique and you can read this on our website: <https://www.beulahcommunitychurch.co.uk/missions> They ask us to pray for “the use of the mill in Dombe, that many people will be blessed by it and that God's name will be praised ;the rest of our time on home assignment, that it will continue to be a blessing for us and for others, and for a safe and easy journey back to Beira ; all those involved in the education system in Mozambique, that this new project will produce positive results and that the Church will be a positive influence in educational facilities and in the lives of school staff and students.”

The URC have been publishing weekly prayers during the Pandemic. This is the latest prayer:

Healing Father, giver of wholeness,
as we move once again out of a life of restriction and into the glory of your world,
we give thanks for places and people of healing,
for individuals in communities, churches, hospitals, and care homes.
We pray for your healing to be present
in the lives of all who hurt and grieve and in the midst of a broken world.
As we move towards being able to worship you again in our communities,
Let us not forget those churches that remain closed and the congregations
that may never worship together again.
We ask that we too will receive the touch of your presence in our lives
so that we can pass it to others who have not yet seen your glory and majesty.
Help us to open ourselves to You as our lives gradually open up,
and give us hope enough to trust in Your resurrection promises.
*When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
God be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen*

3.Weekly Challenges

-On a piece of A4 paper, write a ‘big question’ you have about faith, or something you’d like to ask God. Use the paper to make a paper boat following the instructions (see link below or use QR code). Take your boat somewhere to float it on water – or you can do this at home – as you do, pray that your question would be heard by God. www.easypeasyandfun.com/how-to-make-a-paper-boat/

-Listen to this song “ Praise you in this storm:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YUGwUgBvTU>

4. Quiz questions – Jesus calms the storm.

- 1.What had Jesus been doing before he got in the boat with the disciples? Can you name any of the parables he had been telling?
2. What was he doing when the squall broke out?
3. How were the disciples feeling?
4. What did the disciples say to Jesus when they woke him?
5. After Jesus had calmed the storm, why did he rebuke the disciples?
6. How are they described after he had calmed the storm and why?

Now read Mark Chapter 4v 35-41to check your answers. What does this story teach us?