

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
July 2017

Minister

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From our Minister ...

MINISTERS' SUMMER SCHOOL 2018



The main speaker was Revd. Robert Pope, a URC minister and church historian, who has been working at University of Wales, Trinity St. David, in Carmarthen and Lampeter, and is about to take up a post at Westminster College, Cambridge. As well as Reformation history, there were also contributions from churches around the National Synod of Wales, giving examples of how the churches are active and adapting to serve in the 21st century, under the title, 'It Just Works!' All of this, in the green and tranquil setting of Lindors Country House Hotel in the Forest of Dean!

IT JUST WORKS !



We've heard of Messy Church. We heard about 'Messy Vintage Church' – Rosie Buxton, a CRCW (Church Related Community Worker) from Swansea, talked about working in care homes with people living with dementia. Using music, craft, and the opportunity for good company, regular sessions under the name of 'ChitChat' are offered to people. It is important to recognise

that people do not lose their spirituality just because they are living with dementia.

In Penarth, the Women's Guild became the core group opening up the church to people on their own. Revd. Sue Fender told us that there is keep-fit for seniors, food and conversation ('table fellowship'), 'holiday at home' days in the summer, and games. (Children were invited to come along and teach games they enjoyed, eg Jenga blocks, and the adults taught the children Scrabble.) The local police were so impressed that they have offered a trip to the seaside for the people who come to the group.

In Newport, apart from HHI (Health Help International) which our churches support, there is a community lunch and Saturday breakfast for people who are in a vulnerable state. This developed into training being offered in printing and computing. On Sunday evening there is informal 'café style' worship around a long trestle table – which has resulted in new church members from those who attended the meals.

Revd. Stephen Best told us about his work as transitional minister at Bethesda URC, Tongwynlais. The membership is very small, and traditional forms of worship no longer practical, but the church has re-branded itself as 'A cuppa and conversation church'.

At St. David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, there is still an evening service, but once a month this takes the form of a 'film and chat evening'. Revd. Phil Wall shared his passion for film and how many films – not necessarily religious – are full of theological themes and questions. Stories in whatever shape or form or medium, have always been a part of humanity and a way of reflecting on our lives, and help us to develop empathy with people whose life-experiences are very different from ours.

We also heard from Revds. Phil Wall and Kathryn Price who are part of the steering group for '**Walking the Way**', which will replace TLS (Training for Learning and Serving) from next year. Walking the Way will offer resources, programmes, and gatherings to help us in our Christian discipleship in the URC. In 2019, in place of Summer School, ministers from across Wales, Scotland and England will meet to learn more about Walking the Way. Listen out for more ...

OUR REFORMED HERITAGE



This year is the 500th anniversary since Luther nailed his '95 theses' to the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. His protest was against the sale of 'indulgences' – a system which had evolved in the church whereby you could buy your way out of purgatory and speed up your admittance into heaven, a sort of 'get out jail card' in Monopoly terms! The system was lucrative for the church, of course.

In the United Reformed Church, we are heirs of the Reformation. However, Reformation was a long and complicated process rather than a one-off event. There had been earlier movements of protest against the misuse of power by the few in the church. In the early middle ages, the Lollards in England called for many of the reforms which would later become marks of the Reformed churches. John Wycliffe translated substantial parts of the New Testament into English.

Martin Luther (1483-1546) emphasised that salvation comes through faith alone. We cannot earn or pay our way to heaven but rely on God's grace. Luther did not intend to leave the Roman Catholic Church but to change it. He also suggests that the priesthood includes all believers.

John Calvin (1509-1564) developed the thinking further and said that scripture alone is the basis of faith rather than the habits and customs which accumulate over the years. Calvin also emphasised the challenging doctrine of 'predestination' – God's

foreknowledge of who would be saved. It was Calvin's followers, however, who hardened this into an exclusivist and almost fatalistic doctrine.

These earlier reformers, such as Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, are often called 'magisterial' because they did not want to separate church from the secular authorities (magistrates) but saw government and church as interlinked. They also maintained a 'high' form of ministry and church order. Radical reformers broke the inter-dependence of church and state. 'Anabaptists' believed that faith must come through personal decision not an infant baptism and they rejected the authority of the state. Church and state must be separate.

The movement of reform continued. In Britain, with the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 under Charles II, there was the 1662 Act of Uniformity, requiring clergy of the Church of England, to use only the Book of Common Prayer. Those who refused and were ejected from their livings, were called 'Dissenters. These dissenters sowed the seeds of the various 'free churches', marked by freedom to worship without political interference and freedom of conscience. Baptists and Congregationalists also drew on the beliefs of the radical reformers in terms of independent, local church governance. You will have noticed that the URC has inherited our principles from all these strands – faith, scripture, the priesthood of all believers, church governed separately from state, good church order.

But a big question about what it means to be reformed is easily forgotten. First of all, we are part of the one catholic (universal) church. The history of the church before the reformation is also our history. The church did not begin in the Reformation (or during the long course of the Reformation.) As the church has drawn together again through the ecumenical movement, our shared history has been acknowledged and valued. And the history being made today is our history. We also sometimes forget that the URC was supposed to be an interim church, a step on the way to full union of the churches in Great Britain.

October 29th is 'Reformation Sunday' –and perhaps a good opportunity for us to re-visit these building blocks of our tradition.

SPI



On Saturday 29th July 2017, Pilgrimage from Penrhys to Margam following the Cistercian Way.

The walk in total is just under 21 Miles and takes in some of the most breath taking views across the valleys. It is promising to be a wonderful day if the weather is with us.

Starting at 5:30 am at Penrhys, we hope to finish in Margam Park at 5pm. This is quite a tough walk as you would expect, as the route is not flat, it involves some pretty steep climbs.

Along the way we are planning to have two stops, one after 6 miles and another for lunch at Llangynwyd (Nr Maesteg).

The Cistercians were enormously important in the history of Wales. Their belief in the importance of self-sufficiency and hard work made them great farmers, and they cleared much of the upland farming landscape of Wales.

The Cistercian abbeys gave hospitality to Welsh poets and chroniclers. It was the Cistercians who wrote to the Pope in support of the Welsh kings Llewellyn ap Iorwerth and Llewellyn ap Gruffydd, and who backed Owain Glyndwr in his bid to regain Welsh independence. The Cistercians looked after important pilgrimage shrines like Penrhys. The ruins of their abbeys are among the most beautiful and evocative places in our landscape.

The walk from Llangynwyd is the shortest leg of the route and if 21 miles seems long then we would welcome you to join us for the last leg.

We are collecting for Christian Aid so any donations would be very gratefully received.

If you would like to join Stephen and Lewis on this walk then please let us know.

Lewis

Lectionary Readings

July

2nd **Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;**
Matthew 10:40-42; Romans 6:12-23

9th **Genesis 24: 34-38,42-49, 58-67;**
Psalm 45:10-14; Romans 7:15-25a;
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

16th **Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 65:1-13;**
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

23rd **Genesis 28:10-19a;**
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

30th **Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11;**
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-46



NOTICE RE: INFORM

As Rob and I are away during August and September there will be one edition of Inform covering August and September.

Thank you!

GIFT DAY -Sunday 16th July

This coincides with the worship during the Flower Festival weekend.

This will give church members the opportunity to respond to God's good gifts in the context of some beautiful flowers. It will also hopefully raise some funds to support the ongoing maintenance of the church building (and put a smile on the treasurer's face!) Rob Moverley

TLS Students

We look forward to working with Richard and Sarah Edwards. They are doing their placement in the Valleys Pastorate as part of the TLS 'Gateways into Worship Course', and will be with us from September to June.

Elders from the three churches are invited to meet Sarah and Richard at the manse on Wednesday 19th July from 12.30 to about 3pm.

There will be a light lunch and a chance to meet each other.

We shall also aim to fix the Sunday dates on which they will be preaching and leading worship at the three churches in the pastorate, as well as start to explore possibilities for the alternative worship they are required to lead. SPI

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The final total collected for Caerffili was £1899.91

Of this Van Road Church and collectors contributed £673.29

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

Sun 2nd, 6pm

Farewell Service for
Rev Sue O'Hare at Wesley Methodist

Tues 4th, 7pm

Elders

Thurs 6th, 10.30am

Fellowship and Bible Study

Tues 11th, 5.30pm

Church Meeting

Thurs 13th,

Setting up for Flower Festival

Fri 14th– Sun16th, 10am-4pm

Flower Festival

Sun 16th, 10.30am
6pm

GIFT Day (during service)
'Songs of Praise' at Mount Carmel

Thurs 20th, 10.30am

Fellowship and Bible Study

Sat 22nd 7.00p.m.

The David Hawthorn Memorial
Gala Concert
'Cantare and Friends'

Sat 29th-Sun 30th

'The Big Cheese'
Service 5pm on Sunday

Looking Ahead

August -Wed 16th, 1pm Concert with William Morris

September-Sat 16th , 7pm, Concert with Neil Parker

No July Coffee Morning

Enfys regrets that there will be no coffee morning in July as she will be away. Have a good holiday, Enfys.

Pulpit Supply

July

2nd, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis
(communion)

Sat 8th, 6pm Rev. Stephen Lewis

9th No Service

16th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis

23rd, 10.30am Rev. Valerie Fernandez

30th, 10.30am Lynda and the Elders

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 12th July
10.30am

Rev. Stephen Lewis



FLOWER FESTIVAL

Volunteers needed please to 'meet and greet' and make refreshments.

New Funding Award

The Church has received another Community Regeneration Fund Award for £14, 343. This brings the total amount of financial support received from Caerphilly County Borough Council to just over £101,000. The grant will be used to restore the office and the vestibule area on the ground floor. As this amount covers 80% of the projected building and furnishing costs, I have also applied to the Welsh Churches Fund for a maximum award of £2,000. A reply to the application is awaited. The Vanguard Centre will donate £500.00 towards this project. The church will be responsible for covering the shortfall. This project will be Phase 6 of the church's restoration programme. The contractor will again be Mr. Clive Saunders from Hereford, Gaslec will be involved and John will project manage on behalf of the church. The work must commence within 3 months' time in order to comply with the regulations of the funding award.

Thanks.

I wish to thank Cathy Vernalls for help with the typing up of the Community Regeneration Application Form and John for yet again chasing after the necessary quotes, as we only had just over three weeks in which to get the application submitted. Thanks are also due to all who yet again hurriedly provided support letters, viz, Church officers, our minister and our local politicians and finally, to the Local Authority, for its continued support.

Mair.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

July

1st	No volunteers as yet!!
8th	
15th	Flower Festival
22nd	
29th	

Thank you to all volunteers

We hold in our prayers -

Bill and Jean Mutter

Denis Woods and family Vernon Holland

Dorothy Banfield and family

Tony Moore Phyllis Colwell

Russell and Carole Boothe Veronica Moverley

The family and friends of Dennis Woods

All families and friends affected by the terrorist atrocities.

All those killed and their families and friends due to the tower block fire in London.

In London the families and friends and those hurt in the Muslim community due to a van being driven at them.



The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

July

Groups' news. The Tai Chi class is taking a break but we hope they will return in the not too distant future. As the summer holidays approach some activities will take a break until September.

Lunchtime concert: Wednesday 14th June.

We enjoyed a return visit by Matthew Clark, who is a Bass, Lay Clerk, at Gloucester Cathedral. Matthew was accompanied by James Anderson-Besant, a remarkably talented pianist and organist.

Forthcoming events

Saturday 22 July 7.00 p.m.

The David Hawthorn Memorial Gala Concert 'Cantare and friends'

The Vocal Duo of Angharad Morgan and David Fortey will be joined Caroline Carragher, Craig Yates and Huw Euron. Ryan Wood will accompany them. All the men are members of Only Men Aloud, the very popular and well known singing group, while the ladies are both operatic singers. Angharad is a member of the Welsh National Opera Chorus and Caroline sings with Opera Holland Park. Ryan we all know is a superb pianist. This is going to be a fabulous evening, the first Memorial Gala Concert in David Hawthorn's name and is in aid of MND. It is a ticket only concert. **If you wish to reserve tickets please let me know a.s.a.p. Tickets are £15 each.**

I am grateful to the many church members who have paid for and received their tickets. I would be grateful if those church members, who have reserved tickets, and not yet received and paid for them, could do so before the concert. This would expedite matters on the evening when there will be many visitors coming to the performance.

Also booked into VAN-guard

Tuesday-Thursday 18th-20th July-3 days of workshops for young opera singers under the tuition of Audrey Hyland from the Royal Opera House. London, with accompanist Nicola Rose from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. *Private booking.*

NEW

Wednesday 16th August at 1.00 p.m. lunchtime concert with William Morris.

William is a tenor and has been tutored for a few years by David and Angharad. He performed here in the summer of 2016 as one of 'the Shooting Stars'. William has currently just finished his first year at Bath University. He wanted a project for his summer vacation and this is it. We hope many people will come along and support the challenge he has set himself. He has a lovely voice, and I am sure everyone will enjoy hearing him singing at VAN-guard once again. Tickets are £5.00 which will include light refreshments at the end of the performance.

Saturday 16th September an evening recital at 6.00p.m. by Neil Parker

Neil has appeared a number of times with David and Angharad's students and was a great hit when he also sang with 'the Shooting Stars' last summer. Neil is a music

teacher in a Cwmbran Comprehensive School. He has a powerful tenor voice, and is an exciting performer with a great stage presence. He also belongs to a Jazz Group that performs most weekends. This will be an event to relish and will be a great start our autumn programme of music.

Tickets are £5.00 and will include light refreshments at the end of the recital.

REMINDER

Autumn/ Christmas events

Wednesday 4th October an evening concert with Aber Valley Male Voice Concert in aid of Parkinsons' Disease.

Tickets are £5.00. The time is yet to be confirmed.

14th-24th November The 5th VAN-guard Centre Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Please pass on the dates to friends who might be interested in submitting items for the exhibition. More details will be forthcoming in a few months' time.

Monday 18th December an evening performance 'Cantare at Christmas'. This has become a regular Christmas delight when David, Angharad and Ryan always provide a superb festive performance.

Mair



YOUNG WIVES

July

3rd Nitter / Natter

10th Nitter / Natter

17th Last Meeting

Next Meeting Monday 11th September

Business and Biscuits



CHURCH WEEKEND

Trefeca

Friday September 29th to Sunday 1st October

Please give your names to Diane or Rob as to whether you are coming for the whole weekend or just for Sunday

Cost £105 for the weekend, all meals included

Transport can be arranged.

Please can you let us know by 30th July if you would like to come so that we know how many rooms there may be available to be offered to other churches.

THANK YOU!

VAN ROAD WORSHIP PLANNING GROUP

VISITS ... Suggestions from the group included arranging visits to places of worship of other religions – Mosque, Synagogue, Temple, Gudawara – to help us learn more about people from different faiths.

READING ... There was also a suggestion of a reading group to read and discuss over the course of a few weeks/ months, a book which helps us think about our faith. A book mentioned was:

'Why did Jesus, Moses, Buddha and Mohammed cross the road?' by Brian McLaren, which re-examines the way Christians think about other faiths.

HYMNS ... *COMMON GROUND – A SONGBOOK FOR ALL THE CHURCHES*

We've used this a few times and our elders' and church meetings agreed we will try to get hold of some copies for Van Road.

Common Ground was an ecumenical hymn book from Scotland, with a good variety of strong tunes and fresh words. Sadly it is out of print now but we hope to build up a set of books from various sources, including an advert on the Church of Scotland website.

NEXT MEETING ... 10am Saturday 2nd September –

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME AND CONTRIBUTE – THE GROUP IS OPEN !

ROTAS

July

Stewards

Diana Hibbert

Cathy Vernalls

Communion

Lynda Jones

Margaret Craig

August

Stewards

Dorothy Woodward

Chris Harling

Communion

Margaret Baldwin

Cathy Vernalls

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS FOR JULY

2nd	Diana Hibbert
9th	Carol Jones
16th	FLOWER FESTIVAL
23rd	Carolyn Jenkins
30th	Barbara Lloyd

Thank you to all who donate flowers for worship

From our Minister ...

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN GRENFELL TOWER

Jesus, you saw friend and stranger,

and knew that the love of God is for both.

You heard different accents,

and walked towards them not away.

You ate together with people,

showing that sharing not separation is God's will and way.

We have seen pictures of hell,

homes which should be sanctuaries seared with flame.

We hear a roll call of the dead,

their names from around the world.

Jesus, we pray for them, for those who loved them,

through your suffering and death for us all.

We pray for them and for our world,

that resurrection and the Kingdom of God will come.

Jesus, you see friend and stranger,

and know that the love of God is for both.

Amen

CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Margaret Baldwin	02920 867027
Mrs Diana Hibbert	02920 831653
Mr Lewis Lewis-Head	02920 889958
Mrs Enfys Hawthorn	02920866840
Ms Lynda Jones	02920 884022
Mrs Diane Moverley	02920 866336
Mr Robert Moverley	02920 866336
Mrs Cathy Vernalls	02920 887112
Mrs Phyllis Frayling	02920862285

Any items for the next edition should be
submitted by the 19th of the month

to -

Mrs Diane Moverley

dianemoverley60@gmail.com

(or if not on e mail then items can be left
in the box at the back of the sanctuary)



**And we know that in all things God
works for the good of those who love
him, who have been called according
to his purpose.**

Romans 8:28 NIV