

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
November 2017

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An elder writes ...

ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH

By Wilfred Owen

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;

Once again, the nation will come together to remember those members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives in conflicts throughout the world. This year we especially remember the **Battle of Passchendaele**, also known as the **Third Battle of Ypres**. Fought between July and November 1917, Passchendaele, remains one of the most notorious battles of the First World War. In three-and-a-half months of fighting, an advance of less than five miles saw an estimated 550,000 Allied and German troops killed, wounded or lost. Around 90,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers were missing; 50,000 buried without being identified, and 42,000 never recovered from the Belgian fields of Flanders that turned into an ocean of mud.

Peace is something everyone wants, yet few seem to find. What is peace? It can be defined as “tranquillity, harmony, or security.” Depending on the situation, it could mean “prosperity” or “well-being.” Various forms of the word *peace* are found 429 times in the King James Version of the Bible. There are different types of peace, including false peace, inner peace, peace with God and peace with man. In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew word for “peace” is *shalom*, and it refers to relationships between people (Genesis 34:21), nations (1 Kings 5:12), and God with men (Psalm 85:8).

Peace is a desired status in each of these arenas, and shalom is often tied to a covenant or a promise kept. A familiar friend (literally, “friend of my peace” in Psalm 41:9) is one with whom you would be at ease, a trusted companion. “Peace” was the standard greeting (1 Samuel 25:6), still used in many cultures today.

Believers have an obligation to “let the peace of God rule” in their hearts (Colossians 3:15). This means we have the choice either to trust God’s promises (letting His peace rule) or to rely on ourselves and reject the peace He offers. Jesus gave His disciples peace based on the truth that He has overcome the world (John 14:27; 16:33). Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, so, if we are allowing the Spirit of God to rule in our lives, we will experience His peace. To be spiritually minded brings life and peace, according to Romans 8:6.

The world will continue to have wars and interpersonal conflicts until Jesus comes to establish true, lasting peace (see Isaiah 11:1-10), but God will give His peace to those who trust Him. Jesus took the chastisement of our peace (Isaiah 53:5) and has made it possible for us to have peace with God. Once His peace rules in our hearts, we are able to share that peace with others; we become publishers of peace (Isaiah 52:7) and ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

So as we gather to remember those members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the line of duty, let us hope that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will be present in our lives and throughout the world. Amen.

God commands us to seek peace (Psalm 34:14; Matthew 5:9). We should “make every effort to do what leads to

peace” (Romans 14:19). Of course, there will be some people who do not desire peace, but we are still to do our utmost to be at peace with them (Romans 12:18). Peace is directly related to the actions and attitudes of individuals; but it is ultimately a gift from God (Isaiah 45:7; Leviticus 26:6; John 14:27). The presence of peace indicates God's blessing on man's obedience (Isaiah 32:17; Malachi 2:5) and faith (Isaiah 26:3). There is no peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22).

In the New Testament, the primary Greek word for “peace” is *eirene*, and it refers to rest and tranquility. A key focus of peace in the New Testament is the advent of Jesus Christ, as announced by the angels in Luke 2:14 (“Peace on earth . . .”). Isaiah had predicted the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and He is called the Lord of peace in 2 Thessalonians 3:16. It is through Christ's work of justification that we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1), and that peace will keep our hearts and minds secure (Philippians 4:7).

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Amen.

Lynda

Autumn Synod 2017

Synod meeting took place at the pavilion in Llandrindod Wells this year. Diane and I, together with SPI attended from Van Road. The agenda had some business (including the agreement of new organisational structures within Synod) together with a number of presentations on various subjects that affect the life of our churches.

Churches were encouraged to explore the ‘Walking the Way - living the life of Jesus today’ resources offered by the URC to help us in our discipleship. These are available on the URC website and include an Introductory leaflet and bookmark, weekly prayers, films and an Advent candle liturgy. A sample of the prayers are going to be printed separately from INFORM. We were also encouraged to read the book ‘Holy Habits’. This book explores living the life of a disciple and is useful for personal reading or as the basis for a discussion group. Other resources will include ideas for Lent, a Prayer Chord and an initiative to support elders in the church. On the finance front, Synod accepted the accounts for 2016 and agreed a budget for 2018. Chris Atherton (Synod treasurer) praised churches within

the Synod for keeping their commitments to the Ministry and Mission fund. A change was agreed to the Mission Development Fund that now allows grants of up to £20,000 to be paid. We were also reminded about the Churches Mutual Credit Union: a simple, fair and affordable means of both saving and obtaining credit. More information can be found at the Churches Mutual Credit Union website: <http://cmcu.org.uk>.

Synod agreed to discontinue the post of Rural Chaplain, given the reduced number of ministers serving in Wales, but sought to find an ecumenical response to the needs of rural churches and chapels.

We received 3 presentations on the subject of eco church. The first was from Alison Holland who gave a presentation about the A Rocha organisation's Eco Church programme which enables local churches to commit to a brighter environmental future. The second presentation was from Eileen Newington from Beulah, Rhiwbina which has spent the last few years developing its eco credentials. Beulah seeks to weave environmental concerns into all aspects of church life. They are currently looking to switch to a renewable energy supplier. Lastly, a group of young people attending Synod presented some of their ideas for making churches more eco-friendly: these included: reducing heating costs to conserve energy (Turn the Heating Down!), recycling, encouraging wildlife around churches, conserving rain water, Fairtrade, car-sharing, walking to church, switching to a green energy supplier and using an ethical bank. More information about becoming an eco church can be found at www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk.

The Revd Jeff Williams gave a presentation about Cytûn's 'Wales and Europe Working Party' which focuses on bringing Christian values into the democratic process and protecting the rights of young, disabled, elderly and ethnic minority people as well as the environment. It is currently carrying out a 'public listening' exercise: hearings are scheduled for Bangor and Lampeter: Jeff invited people to get in touch with Cytûn if they would like to host a hearing in their area. Previous

Cytûn reports can be viewed on the Cytûn website: <http://www.cytun.org.uk>. What impressed me was the amount of detailed work these representatives do on our behalf to present a christian perspective to government. It should also be noted that government do appreciate this work also.

Dan Morrell (URC Youth Moderator) gave a presentation on behalf of URC Youth. He said that the voice of young people needs to be heard because young people are passionate about the world and the community of the church and made a plea that priority should be given to welcoming children and young people into all levels of decision making.

Lastly we heard from Helen Stenson from City Church. She gave a presentation about Good Grief funeral training. Helen highlighted the need for individuals to consider taking up this opportunity given the reducing numbers of ministers. Helen spoke about how her own confidence has grown through the training she has received and reported that 12 had attended Good Grief training earlier this year. On Tuesday 14th November a mini Good Grief Conference will be held in Cardiff – some places still available. There will also be an overnight Good Grief course from Friday 19th to Saturday 20th January 2018 (in Llandrindod Wells).

Rob Moverley

* **THANK YOU!** *
* *
* Diana Hibbert has stepped down as a serving elder for *
* the time being. We thank her and really appreciate all *
* she has done for the church and we know we will *
* continue to have her support. We give Diana and Fred *
* our love and pray that God will continue to bless them. *

Ideas for Christmas

Struggling to answer the question 'What can I get you for Christmas'. What about a book on Discipleship.

'Being Disciples' by Rowan Williams. This fresh and inspiring look at the meaning of discipleship covers the essentials of the Christian life, including: faith, hope and love; forgiveness; holiness; social action; life in the Spirit. It is an easy read but provides some deep insight.

'Holy Habits' by Andrew Roberts. This is a book that explores living the life of a disciple and is useful for personal reading or as the basis for a discussion group. It has been recommended by the URC as part of their 'Walking the Way - living the life of Jesus today' resources.

Rob

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"It says on your résumé that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."



Thank you letter from Madagascar

FJKM Soavinandriana Itasy

The Minister: Laza
Andriamahatany

Soavinandriana, 28th Sept
2017

To Van Road, United
Reformed Church Caerphilly

Subjects: Gratitude

"May the grace and peace from God the Father, Jesus Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen"

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to you all. We are not alone in our suffering. You supported us and sent us money £300 (1.095.000Ar) towards schools fees for the academic year of 2017-2018 for the children who survived in the bus tragedy.

Thank you very much,

Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



Autumn Word Search



Created by Sue Lindwall
Grand Forks Herald 2013

See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle.
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Autumn | 5. Raking | 9. Gourds | 13. Corn |
| 2. Fall | 6. Harvest | 10. Football | 14. Maize |
| 3. Leaves | 7. Pumpkins | 11. Season | 15. Yellow |
| 4. Colors | 8. Apples | 12. Scarecrow | 16. Orange |

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

November 2017

Review

Wednesday 4th October

We were treated to an excellent concert given by **Aber Valley Male Voice Choir together with two young artists Megan Jones, soprano and Jack Cox, tenor**. The concert was in aid of Parkinson's Disease. It raised £1,665.00. Mr. Brian Griffiths did a great deal of the preparatory work to make the concert such a success and a fitting tribute to Jean.

Tuesday 17th October - Defibrillator Presentation.

We were delighted to receive this item of medical equipment which has been donated by the Tommy Cooper Society. The event was introduced by Mr. Tudor Jones, Chair of the Society. There was representation from the Church, VAN-guard groups and the Society itself. A very relaxed and encouraging presentation of how to use the defibrillator was given by Mr. Richard Lee of the Welsh Ambulance Association. The AED is now registered on the Welsh Ambulance Association and has been set up in the porch on the ground floor, on the left of the door as you come in from Goodrich Street. We are very grateful to the Tommy Cooper Society for its generosity. To show our gratitude we will in due course raffle a beautifully knitted doll of 'Tommy' in order to try and raise some funds for the Society, to enable it to donate a defibrillator to another local organisation. Ours is the 9th that has been presented in the Caerphilly, Bedwas, and Abertridwr areas.

Mair

Forthcoming concerts 2017.

At the time of writing we are a week away from the first visit by baritone Andrew Randall who is giving a concert on 28th October. He will be accompanied by Conal Bembridge-Sayers a very talented pianist who is currently Musical Director of Caerphilly Male voice Choir. We hope that next month we can report that it was a great success.

Monday 18th December at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £10.00
An evening performance of 'Cantare at Christmas'.

This has become a regular Christmas delight when David, Angharad and Ryan always provide a superb programme of festive music. This will be an evening not to miss.

Ticket orders are already being received for the Christmas Concert. Let me know if you wish to reserve any.Exhibition 14th-24th November -

The 5th VAN-guard Centre Annual Arts, Crafts and Literary Exhibition.

Opening times-

Weekdays and Saturday-11.00.a.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Sunday 12.00 noon to 4.00 p.m.

Please pass on the details to friends who might be interested in submitting items for the exhibition. Submissions will be received on:

Wednesday 8th November between 3.30-6.30 p.m.
Maximum 3 items per person, submission fee £1.00
per item.

This applies to art, craft and written work.
We would be grateful once again for assistance to meet
visitors and offer refreshments.

Leaflets with full details of the exhibition are available. Awards will be chosen and presented on Friday afternoon 24th November by Dr Hefin David A.M. and Mrs Jackie Askey, Chair of the VAN-guard Centre Management Committee. The presentations follow the Spoken Word event which will commence at 2.00p.m.

Forthcoming concerts 2018.

Next year is beginning to look busy all ready. Six concerts have been arranged to date.

Advance notice for January 2018

Thursday 4th January- an evening performance

The '**Chords**' Choir from Cardiff will give its first recital at VAN-guard and will be in aid of the Forget me Not Choir for sufferers of Alzheimer's Disease. Some young artists will also be performing. Tickets are £8 and £6 concession. It will be good to start the New Year on a musical note.

Wednesday 17th January - a lunchtime concert at
1.00 p.m.

Clare Eccles, a post graduate student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, will be giving a recital. Clare was a member of the Champagne Quartet that performed for us in August. She is a soprano and will also be joined by a violinist for this recital. This will be a filmed recital as part of Clare's Master's Degree. It would be a great encouragement to Clare to have a good size audience for this concert. Tickets are £5.

Concerts for February and beyond will be publicised next month.

The next Management Committee meeting will be held on
Wednesday 31st January at 10.00 a.m.

Caerphilly Food Bank

Many thanks for the donations from the Harvest Festival. We sent 83kg of food which is fantastic. Harvest festivals have seen many more generous donations of food; more than this time last year.

Presently the food bank is exceedingly well stocked but can always use UHT milk as this is not donated very often.

Thank you!

YOUNG WIVES

November

Mondays 7.30pm

6th HHI Mrs Jute Williams

13th 'Songs from the Shows'
Mrs Irene Burrows

19th Poetry Mr Tom Phelps

26th *Television actress*
Leona Vaughan



Together in Prayer

Perhaps you might invite those who lead the prayers of intercession week by week in your church to incorporate this prayer calendar into their prayers. Single documents containing the prayer calendars for the whole of [2017](#) and [2018](#) are available to download.

Week 45	5th November	Pray for St. David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, staff of Cytûn, and the Moderator, staff and churches of Northern Synod Pray for Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda
Week 46	12th November	Pray for Castle Square United Reformed Church, Treforest, staff of Christian Aid Wales, and the Moderator, staff and churches of North Western Synod Pray for Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Week 47	19th November	Pray for Van Road United Reformed Church, Caerphilly, our ecumenical partners in Wales, and the Moderator, staff and churches of Mersey Synod Pray for Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea
Week 48	26th November	Pray for Hope and Market Square United Church, Merthyr Tydfil, and the Moderator, staff and churches of Yorkshire Synod Pray for Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

Prayers for countries and regions of the world are based upon the World Council of Churches publication

["In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle"](#)

100th Birthday Wishes

Belated birthday wishes to Phyllis, mother of Tony Moore on her 100th birthday. It was a pleasure to accompany Margaret and Stephen on a visit to mark this special occasion. She looked well and this must be down to the care given by Tony over the years.

Dorothy Lewis

We hold in our prayers -

Those affected by the bus tragedy in Madagascar

Vernon Holland Bill and Jean Mutter

Dorothy Banfield and family

Tony Moore Phyllis Colwell

Russell and Carole Boothe



Next Edition of Inform

**Please note that the next edition will cover
December and January.**

(contributions by 19th November please.)

Lectionary Readings

November

5th Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
Matthew 23:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

12th Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
Matthew 25:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

19th Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
Matthew 25:14-30;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

26th Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 100;
Matthew 25:31-46; Ephesians 1:15-23



**ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF
THE VALLEYS PASTORATE**

Van Road URC

Saturday November 4th, 3pm

Led By: Rev. Malcolm Shapland

(followed by tea)

Pulpit Supply

November

5th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis
Communion

12th, 11.00am Mr John Wade
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Please be seated by 10.50am

3pm Service at the Cenotaph

19th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis

26th, 10.30am Rev. Val Fernandez

Mid Week Services

A 'Remembering Service'
Wednesday 1st November 7pm
Rev. Stephen Lewis

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 8th November
10.30am
Rev. Stephen Lewis



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

Wed 1st, 10.30am
7pm

Coffee with Enfys
All Saints Day Service

Thurs 2nd, 10.30am

Fellowship and Bible Study

Sat 4th, 2pm

Celebration Service
followed by afternoon tea

Tues 14th, 4.30pm

Advent Worship Planning

Thurs 16th, 10.30am

Fellowship and Bible Study

Sun 26th, pm

'Young Stars'

Mon 27th-Fri Dec 1st

Christmas Unwrapped (707)

Tues 14th—24th

Art / Crafts/Literary Exhibition

Looking ahead

Sat December 2nd

Church Fair
(to be held in the church)

Sat December 2nd

Christmas Tree Festival
At St. Martins

Thurs December 7th 5.30pm

Rainbow/ Brownie
Christingle Service
All welcome

*Other Ecumenical events will take place in December.
Dates and times later.*

**CHURCH CLEANING
ROTA**

The Sanctuary is now being cleaned professionally once a month. Therefore, all that is needed in subsequent weeks is for the window ledges and floor to be swept. (This task can be accomplished quite quickly by just 1 person).

Volunteers needed please.

Thank you!



Christmas Choir

Anyone who would like to be part of a choir for our Christmas services, please speak to our minister.

We proved we can do it last year! We will start rehearsing soon.

ROTAS

November	December
Stewards	Stewards
Dorothy Woodward	Margaret Baldwin
Chris Harling	Cathy Vernals
Communion	Communion
Diane Moverley	Enfys Hawthorn
Rob Moverley	Margaret Craig

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

Flowers for NOVEMBER

5th	Jen Viggers
12th	REMEMBRANCE
19th	Margaret Craig
26th	The Moverleys

Thank you to all who donate flowers for worship

CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Margaret Baldwin	02920 867027
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)



‘The day becomes more solemn and serene

When noon is past– there is a harmony

In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,

Which through the summer is not heard or seen,

As if it could not be, as if it had not been.’

Percy Bysshe Shelley (from Hymn to Intellectual Beauty.)