# INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
Ctober 2017

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#### From our Minister ...

The last Sunday in October is designated as Reformation Sunday. Of course, our churches in the Valleys Pastorate, are part of that great Reformed family, which shapes our United Reformed and Presbyterian denominations, with emphases on scripture and faith and the independence of the church from the secular state.

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There were certainly problems and abuses which the Reformation addressed some half a millennium ago. But there were also deep traditions of Christian faith which were rightly retained and treasured. In our ecumenical era, the Reformed churches recognise that we are both Catholic and Reformed, that God is bigger than the changing understanding of human beings, and the Church of Christ is much more than our local and temporal understanding. Church did not begin at the Reformation, even if the churches which broke away from Rome, sometimes acted as if they were the only true church.

There is a Latin slogan which has long been used among the Reformed churches – 'semper reformanda' which means 'reformation must always carry on.' This is good advice for churches like ours which call themselves Reformed, because it is so easy to get stuck in our habits, in what makes us feel comfortable. Especially in our world today, faith has to engage in new ways, where knowledge, culture, society, politics, national identity, technology, all of these things, are changing so rapidly,

Where is the faithfulness of God in all this? Perhaps we can take comfort and advice from the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Christians in Thessalonica: 'test everything; hold fast to what is good' (1 Thessalonians 5.21). Perhaps we can also take comfort and inspiration from a time of defeat and upheaval for the Jewish people long ago, when God's word was spoken to them: 'See, I am doing a new thing' (Isaiah 43.19). God does not abandon us and we can look forward in hope.

Let's take a look back over the shoulder, to last month, and the centenary of the ordination of the first woman minister in a major Christian denomination. Constance Todd applied to study theology at Mansfield College, Oxford, in 1913. Mansfield was an entirely male institution, with no provision for women as there was not any expectation that a woman could be ordained, although the question was being discussed in the Congregational Union. The College Principal, W.B. Selbie, was convinced of Constance's call and accepted her for the four years of training. In the Congregational churches, the call of a minister was the complete responsibility of the local church meeting, and so it seemed not impossible that Constance could fulfil her vocation. As the Great War raged, on September 17th 1917, Constance Todd was ordained to the Congregational ministry with the laying on of hands and the singing of the 'Veni Creator Spiritus' (Come Holy Spirit). She was ordained with her fiancé, Claud Coltman. They were married the next day, before

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starting ministry together in a mission among a deprived community in the east end of London.

The ministry of ordained women has energised other major Christian denominations since then: Methodist, Baptist, Anglican and others. In the story of Constance Coltman, we see the testing and keeping hold of what is good, the new things that God is always doing in the world.



Rev. Constance Coltman



In Christ, Stephen

# We hold in our prayers -

Those affected by the bus tragedy in Madagascar

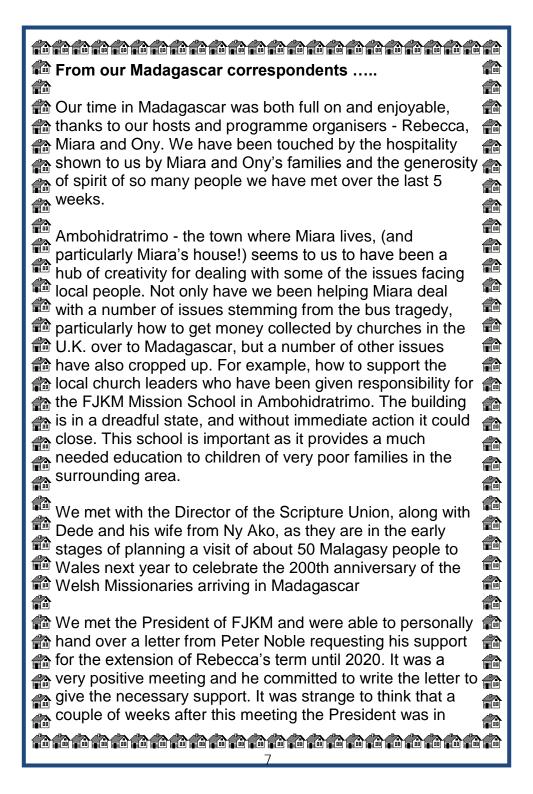
Vernon Holland Bill and Jean Mutter

**Dorothy Banfield and family** 

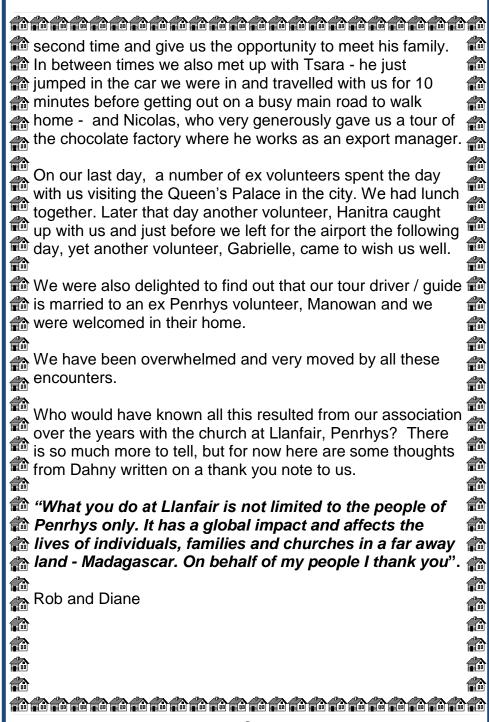
Tony Moore Phyllis Colwell

Russell and Carole Boothe Margaret Baldwin





Cardiff attending a CWM meeting and we were visiting the church in Madagascar on the site where Thomas Bevan and David Jones arrived 200 years ago. And then we saw nictures of him visiting Llanfair Church as part of his stay. We have seen first hand, the work carried out at Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo and Akany Avoko Farhafodria supporting young women (primarily) who have been referred by the courts, either because they are waiting to go to court, or because of particular social concerns in the family. We undertook some craft work with the children in hoth venues. We helped out at a school holiday project supported by Ankizy gasy, a foundation set up by 2 Polish ladies who were former volunteers at Akany Avoko, Again, this project offers education for some of the poorest children in the area. We have been delighted to be reunited with many of the Malagasy people who have been volunteers at Llanfair over the years, and it was good to hear what they have been doing since their time in Wales. Each has a good story to tell. When we visited Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo we met p with Naomi and Dominique. We met Hanta, Dahny, Lova, Hanta and Hertine during our visit to the FJKM offices. We then met a number of the former Akany Avoko volunteers (Sahondra, Erstine, Gabrielle and Naomi) together with some of their families and also Elysee the following day. We were touched that each had taken time out of their busy lives to come and see us to hear news of Wales, Llanfair and its friends. Dahny even made an excursion on his way to the airport so he could meet us a



# The VAN-guard Centre

#### **Charity Registration number 1109193**

#### October 2017

I produced a newsletter which covered the summer's activities and hope everyone received a copy. If not please ask for one.

As autumn arrives we welcome all our groups to the new term and we wish them a successful and happy time at VAN-quard.

#### Review

# Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 p.m. An evening recital with Neil Parker, tenor.

We enjoyed a very lively recital by Neil who has a powerful tenor voice. His Journey through Musical Theatre was well received by an appreciative audience. It was a great start to our autumn programme and we hope he will come again and perform for us.

#### Forthcoming events.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £6.
Aber Valley Male Voice Choir and guest artists Megan Jones, soprano and Jack Cox, tenor.

This concert is in aid of Parkinson's Disease.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £8 and £6 concession.

A Recital by Andrew Randall, baritone.

Accompanist Conal Bembridge- Sayers.

We welcome Andrew to his first concert at VAN-guard and look forward to his performance. The programme will include Liszt sonnets for Voice and Piano, Liszt Solo Piano pieces, English, German and French songs.

Conal Bembridge-Sayers is a very accomplished pianist who has recently been appointed Musical Director of Caerphilly Male Voice Choir. He has appeared at VANguard on previous occasions with the Serenata Singers. We are delighted to welcome him back.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 these concerts. Let me know if you wish to reserve any.

**Exhibition** 

14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November -The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> November between 3.00-6.00 p.m. Maximum 3 items per person, submission fee £1.00 per item.

The next Management Committee Meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October at 1.00 p.m.



# Lectionary Readings

October

1st Genesis 8: 15-22; Psalm 65;

Matthew 13:24-33; Revelation 14:14-18

8th Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;

Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7;

Matthew 21:33-46; Philippians 3:4b-14

15th Exodus 32:1-4; Psalm 6106:1-6;

Isaiah 25:1-9; Matthew 22:1-4;

Philippians 4:1-9

22nd Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99;

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;

Matthew 22:15-22

29th Deuteronomy 34:1-12;

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-36

31st Reformation Day

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 3:19-28;

Psalm 46; John 8:31-36



# Pulpit Supply

October



1st, 10.30am Lynda and Margaret

8th, 10.30am Rob Moverley

15th, 10.30am Mr Alun Williams

22nd, 10.30am Rev. Judy Jarmen

29th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 11th October 10.30am

Rev. Stephen Lewis

CONGRATULATIONS

To

Mair and John on their 25th Wedding Anniversary last month.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

October

Wed 4th, 10.30am Coffee with Enfys

7pm Aber Valley Choir Concert

Thurs 5th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

Thurs 20th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

Fri 6th, 2pm Ecumenical Prayer

Sat 7th, 10.30am Coffee Morning /Brunch

Tues 17th, 7pm Defibrellator Presentation

Thurs 19th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

7.30pm

**Caerphilly Council of Churches** 

Sat 21st, 10am Worship Meeting

Sat 28th, 7.30pm A Recital by Andrew Randall,

(baritone)

Conal Bembridge- Sayers.

(accompanist)

# **Looking Ahead**

November 14th – 24th Art and Crafts Exhibition



# CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

Please volunteer to clean the church by signing the book at the back of the sanctuary or speak to Diana Hibbert.

Thank you!





Christmas Choir

Anyone who would like to form a choir for our Christmas services, please speak to the minister.

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



#### HARVEST LUNCH

Fundraiser for the Victims of the Bus Crash in Madagascar

We have been asked to thank everyone for contributing to the Harvest Lunch collection. The £300 collected was much appreciated and will be of practical help to those families that are bereaved and / or still recovering from injuries. Funds are currently being spent for example, on healthcare, seeds, tools, schooling, legal costs.

The money and your prayers have been really appreciated by those affected.

# **October** ROTAS

October November

Stewards Stewards

Phyllis Frayling Dorothy Woodward

Cathy Vernalls Chris Harling

Communion Communion

Enfys Hawthorn Diane Moverley

Margaret Craig Rob Moverley

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

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Flowers for October

| 1st  | Dorothy Lewis    |
|------|------------------|
| 8th  |                  |
| 15th | Chris Harling    |
| 22nd | Carolyn Jenkins  |
| 29th | Margaret Baldwin |

Thank you to all who donate flowers for worship

# News of a special donation.

We are delighted to receive the donation of a defibrillator from the Tommy Cooper Society on Tuesday 17th October at 7.00 p.m. This will be an official presentation arranged with the Tommy Cooper Society. A representative of the Wales Ambulance Service will be in attendance to explain how it works and explain that it will be registered on their computer, so that help can be arranged if the defibrillator is activated. There will be a 'Tommy like' performance by some members of the Tommy Cooper Society and light refreshments will be available at the end of the event. We hope that as many people as possible will come along and support this event.

#### Restoration work Phase 6.

The church has been awarded a Welsh Church Act Fund Grant of £2,000.00. Together with the CCBC's Community Regeneration Grant of £14,343.00, and VAN-guard's donation of £500.00, a total of £16, 843.00 has been raised toward the restoration costs of the church office. We are very grateful to have received the majority of the money for this latest phase of restoration work. The VAN-guard Centre will also pay for a blind for the room.

# 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

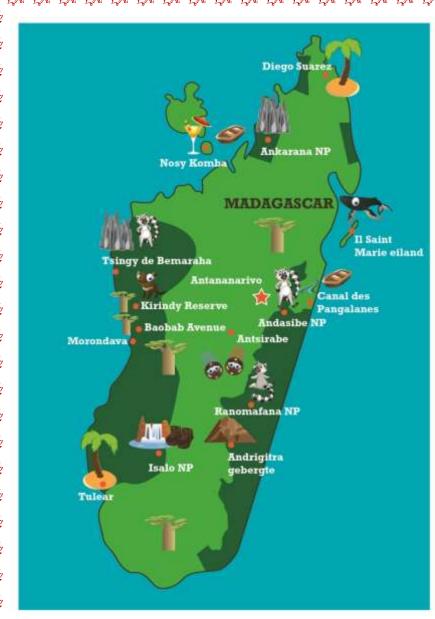
Mrs Cathy Vernalls 02920 887112

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)



Front cover—The church at the location of the first Welsh missionary, David Jones.