

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**Caerphilly**  
**March 2018**

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From our Minister ...

### JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

We are very used to art exhibitions in church. During this Lent, there are some pictures on display, on the windowsills in the church at Van Road. They follow the 'Fourteen Stations of the Cross'.

The origin of 'The Stations of the Cross' is in Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the early Middle Ages, and an attempt to reproduce back at home, the 'Via Dolorosa' – 'the road of sorrows' – which Jesus walked on Good Friday.

'The Stations of the Cross' is a traditional aid to prayer and devotion which is found particularly in Catholic churches, and often carved in wood or stone. The pictures in Van Road this Lent focus particularly on the emotions of the events of Holy Week.

Traditionally, the final scene depicts Jesus laid in the tomb. There are very rare examples of a 15<sup>th</sup> station, representing the resurrection. In our series of stations, it is the picture for the 14<sup>th</sup> station which diverges from tradition by offering a vision of hope and resurrection.

The pictures are striking, often abstract, and accompanied with words from the Scriptures.

Please do take time to look, and read, and spend some moments in contemplation in front of these pictures during this Lenten season.



SPI

### Ecumenical News in Caerphilly

The Reverend Pauline Smith was licensed as Team Vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Eglwysilan and Caerphilly, in a service at St. Martin's on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

The church was full, and included members of the different churches in the town as well as people from Pauline's previous churches near Bridgend.

The new Bishop of Llandaff, The Right Reverend June Osborne, presided, and a special choir and string youth orchestra supplemented the organ and church choir.

In a wonderful and joyful atmosphere, Pauline was welcomed into her new ministry. Greetings were also given from the Caerphilly Council of Churches. Please keep Pauline and her husband in your prayers as they begin a new life here among us.



SPI

Grateful Thanks

To

Margaret Baldwin, who is retiring as a serving elder for the time being. Her commitment and hard work has been much appreciated.

**From the Editor ...**

## **No peace this Lent and Easter in the Holy Land**

At a Christian Aid Committee meeting I was privileged to hear first hand something of what the position is in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT.) William Bell - Christian Aid's Head of Middle East and IOPT (via Skype) gave us a report on the situation there.

Sadly he says that viable peace seems further away as the region is beset by crises and splits. The Palestinian challenges have gone further down the international agenda due to the wars and turmoil all across the Middle East.

He highlights 3 main issues -  
The Settlements, Gaza and Jerusalem.

The Israeli settlements (currently there are 600,000 settlers in east Jerusalem and the West Bank) and more to come by demolition of villages which displaces Palestinians leaving them little land to farm on. Unemployment is very high. In Gaza there is 43% to 60% unemployment particularly among young people. The Blockade in Gaza means that many children 15 and under have never left the Gaza Strip. The infrastructure there is crumbling. Electricity is on for only 2 hours a day, there are few amenities and there is stench from poor sanitation. By 2020 it is thought that it will be uninhabitable.

The Palestinian leadership is split - they are so very far apart and this makes any negotiations so difficult. They have 'broken off' with the USA, who have cut aid. The USA is using aid to force cooperation.

William says it is very hard now to see how Jerusalem can be a 'shared' capital. The Palestinians are being squeezed out in areas of Jerusalem. The USA siding with Israel regarding the US Embassy, has caused huge problems.

Christian Aid is an organisation endeavouring to promote accountability and its prime objective is addressing poverty issues, always aiming to engage in an impartial way, not taking sides, which can be very difficult.

### **Reflection.**

Our UK government with the EU has signed up to Resolution 2334 which takes the position that the Settlements are illegal but this seems to have had no impact. Human Rights groups are finding it very difficult to monitor human rights abuses in the area, violation is still rife. The Israeli government is hostile towards these human rights groups. The 2 maps I received from Amnesty show just how the region has changed.

This Lent and Eastertime please pray for all who are suffering poverty, abuse and injustice and for those workers trying to help and support them. Please also pray for the leaders and heads of state to show understanding and compassion in trying to resolve the complicated issues they face.

Diane





### An elder writes .....

The United Kingdom has recently marked the centenary of some women receiving the vote, On 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Women's World Day of Prayer will take place; on 8<sup>th</sup> March International Women's Day will be celebrated and on 11<sup>th</sup> March it will be Mothering Sunday.

I wondered what we can learn from the life of Deborah?"

Deborah was one of the judges of Israel during a time of oppression. She is called a prophetess and the wife of Lappidoth. The Lord spoke through her as she held court under a tree called "the Palm of Deborah" in Ephraim. The Lord also used her to set her people free and defeat the king of Canaan. Deborah's story is found in Judges, chapters 4 and 5.

Deborah was Israel's only female judge. Some scholars have suggested that her position as judge was itself a judgment on the weak-willed men of Israel. Because Israel's men were unfit to judge, God chose a woman for the job, partly to shame the men who should have taken the leadership. Other commentators believe that Deborah's role as judge was a sign of God's comforting presence in the midst of His oppressed and downtrodden people.

When Deborah became judge, the Israelites had been subjugated for 20 years by Jabin, king of Canaan. The commander of Jabin's army was named Sisera, and he had 900 iron chariots – formidable weapons against Israel's foot soldiers (Judges 4:3). The Israelites were treated very cruelly by Sisera and his army, and Israel's spirits were very low. Deborah describes the hardship of



living under Jabin and Sisera this way: “The highways were abandoned, and travellers kept to the byways. The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be” (Judges 5:6-7). In other words, people feared to leave their homes; travelling was very dangerous.

God’s word comes through Deborah to a man of Naphtali named Barak. The message is that he will lead the revolt against Sisera. Barak’s response is, “I’ll only go if Deborah goes with me” (Judges 4:8). Everyone was afraid of Sisera, including Barak. Deborah agrees to accompany Barak, but she also prophesies that the honour for the victory would belong to a woman, not to Barak (Judges 4:9).

When the time came for battle, God again spoke through Deborah, who prompted Barak to marshal his forces. The Israelites came against the army of Sisera, and God granted the victory. The mighty Sisera himself was brought down by the hand of a woman, just as Deborah had said.

As the commander rested after the battle, a woman named Jael drove a tent peg through his head. What can we learn from the life of Deborah? We can see that God’s power is what matters, regardless of the instrument He chooses to use. Man or woman, strong or weak, confident or hesitant – all are strong when they are moved by God’s Spirit and filled with His strength.

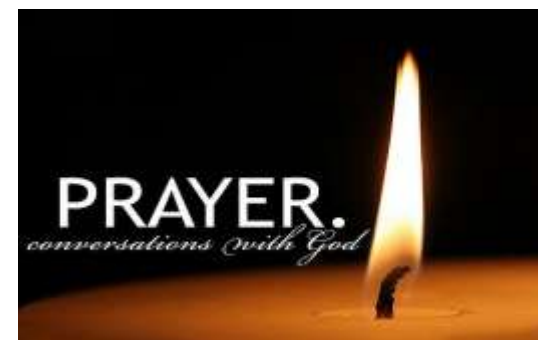
We can also see in Deborah a picture of God’s tender care for His people. As a mother cares for her children, so Deborah led and nurtured Israel (Judges 5:7).

Lynda

## Together in Prayer.

### Please pray for—

- 4th March**
- Old Colwyn URC
  - Tiers Cross URC
  - Germany and France
- 11th March**
- Rhos on Sea URC, Colwyn Bay
  - Wolfsdale URC, Camrose
  - Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino
- 18th March**
- Tabernacle URC, Holywell
  - Crundale URC
  - Myanmar and Thailand
- 25th March**
- Horeb URC, Dyserth,
  - Zion’s Hill URC
  - Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam





**'DO THE LITTLE THINGS: THE  
SMALL THINGS YOU HAVE  
SEEN ME DOING'**

## *Pulpit Supply*

### *March*

- 4th, 10.30am Rev. Judy Jarman
- 11th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis  
Mothering Sunday - Communion
- 18th, 10.30am Richard and Sarah
- 25th, 10.30am Rev. Val Fernandez  
Palm Sunday



### Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 14th March  
10.30am  
Rev. Stephen Lewis

## LENT / EASTER SERVICES

- Thurs 29th, 7pm Maundy Supper at Wesley**
- Fri 30th, 10.30am Good Friday Service at Van Road**
- Easter Day, 7.30am Son Rise Service on  
Caerphilly Mountain**
- 10.30am Easter Day  
Communion Service at Van Road  
Mr Rob Moverley**

## Caerphilly Food Bank Request

Presently the food bank is well stocked but can always use UHT milk, tinned fruit and rice pudding and orange juice / squash as these are not donated very often. Cash donations are also welcome.

Thank you!

### YOUNG WIVES

March

*Mondays 7.30pm*

5th MORGAN JAMES – PROPOSED VISIT TO

PATAGONIA

12th MR ROGER FOSTER - CHURCHES

19th MR ALUN WILLIAMS – SANKEY AND THE  
WAR

26th MEAL OUT



## The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

March 2018

### General update of VAN-guard Centre activities.

This month I am highlighting the activities of two of our groups:

**The Goldies Cymru Group** meets every second Monday of the month at 10.30 a.m. is doing well with an established group of attendees, which include some residents from Aber Mill Care Home in Abertridwr. Depending on road, weather conditions, and availability of carers, some residents also come from Trafalgar House Residential Home in Nelson. Together with our regulars, many of which know each other from pensioner groups in the area, everyone enjoys the friendship as well as the singing with our excellent group leader Carol Pegler. Margaret Craig is always on hand with a warm cup of tea or coffee to welcome everyone as they arrive.

**The University of the Third Age** meets every first Friday of the month at 1.30 p.m. At these meetings all the various U3A groups come together for a joint meeting when they usually have some very interesting speakers. In February the speaker was Dr Hefin David, Assembly Member for Caerphilly. Anyone is welcome to attend and find out more about the group.

### Farewell and Good Luck

The Art Group has said goodbye to two of its long term members. Romila and John Newton are moving to be near their son in Cheshire after living in Caerphilly for 45 years. They will be sorely missed having been members of our Art Group for many years. During their time with us they have participated in the Art Exhibitions and supported 'VAN-guard' Concerts. They will also be greatly missed by





**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.** Caerphilly  
Community Chorus - Christmas Concert.

**July**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> The David Hawthorn Memorial Gala  
Concert –evening performance**

The Noteworthy Mixed Choir is in great demand. We are pleased therefore to have been able to get them for this event. There is a great deal of talent among the choristers as well as with their accompanist Stewart Roberts and their Musical Director Ryan Wood. Ryan is well known to us at

‘VAN-guard’ through his involvement with Cantare, Only Men Aloud etc. The Concert Compere will be David Fortey.

There have even been enquiries for concerts when the date has already been booked. We hope they are able to accept alternative dates offered.

If you or friends wish to be notified of concerts and you have an e mail address, please pass it on to John and you will then receive details of events directly. Also refer to the ‘VAN-guard Centre website [www.vanguardcaerphilly.org](http://www.vanguardcaerphilly.org)

There are also a number of other events planned to take place in the church, so the building is being well used which is good news.

Mair



**CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY CHORUS CONCERT**  
**PROGRAMME**

**The Chorus will be giving three concerts at  
VAN-guard this year.**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 p.m. Spring Concert

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. Summer Concert

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. Christmas Concert

We are delighted that the Chorus will perform at their home  
base.

Mair

**Don't forget NY Ako will be performing their  
unique mixture of music, song and dance and  
sharing something of life in Madagascar at:**

**Van Road Sat 2nd June 2:00 p.m.**

**We hold in our prayers -**

**Vernon Holland      Bill and Jean Mutter**

**Dorothy Banfield and family**

**Tony Moore      Phyllis Colwell**

**Russell and Carole Boothe      Barbara Lloyd**

**Margaret Baldwin**



Grateful Thanks!

Barbara Lloyd wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and good wishes while she was in hospital. She is again unwell and we continue to hold her in our prayers.

### **FAIR TRADE FASHION SHOW**

at

**Mount Carmel Church**

**Saturday 10th March**

**7pm (Free entry)**

### **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**

Feb 26th — March 11th

Please support overseas farmers, workers and artisans by purchasing fair trade goods. To do so gives people from poor communities a chance to thrive allowing them, for example, to send their children to school, to pay for health care and housing and tools and much, much more.

### **Lectionary Readings**



March

4th Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;  
John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

11th Number 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;  
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

18th Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

25th Isaiah 15:4-9a; Psalm 31:6-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15 or  
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

29th Maundy Thursday  
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14;  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26;

30th Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;  
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19, 42

31st Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;  
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 19:38-42

April 1st Easter Day  
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9;  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11;  
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH

Thurs 1st, 10.30am	Fellowship and Bible Study
Sat 3rd, 6pm	Concert raising money for visit to Patagonia by Morgan James
Wed 7th, 10.30am	Coffee with Enfys
Fri 9th, 12md	Lenten Lunch at Wesley
Sat 10th, 10.30am	Coffee morning at St. Catherine's
7pm	Fair Do's Fashion Show at Mount Carmel
Sun 11th, 7pm	Recital by tenor Ryan Ross
Tues 13th, 6,30pm	Messy Church meeting
Thurs 15th, 10.30am	Fellowship and Bible Study
Fri 16th, 12md	Lenten Lunch at Van Road
Thurs 22nd, 5.30pm	Messy Church with the Rainbows, and Brownies. All children welcome.
Fri 23rd, 12md	Lenten Lunch at Wesley
Sat 24th, 3pm	Concert by Caerphilly Community Chorus

Morgan James is presenting a concert on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. At Van Road. This is to aid his quest to go to Patagonia next year. There will be a varied programme. Come along to support Morgan and friends.

## ROTAS

March	April
Stewards	Stewards
Hilary Akerman	Margaret Baldwin
Steve Akerman	Cathy Vernalls
Communion	Communion
Margaret Baldwin	Enfys Hawthorn
Phyllis Frayling	Lynda Jones

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

## Flowers for March

4th	Jen Viggers
11th	Mothering Sunday
18th	Dorothy Woodward
25th	Palm Sunday

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)



*I will instruct you and teach you  
the way you should go; I will  
counsel you with my eye upon you.*

*Psalms 32: 8 NIV*