

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**Caerphilly**  
**October 2018**

## **Minister**

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## From our minister ...

The service of *Compline*, or Night Prayer, is the final church service (or office) of the day. When monks and nuns pray at regular intervals during the day, this service completes the day's cycle of prayer.

It is a tranquil, reflective service, a completion of the day. The opening words are:

'The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a peaceful end. Amen.'

Other prayers in *Compline* give comfort but also remind us that life is not all about sleeping!

'Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep we may rest in peace.'

There is also the night collect which acknowledges the uncertainty of our lives but trusts in the presence of God with us:

'Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray;  
and in your mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen'

October brings the end of harvest time, and this still is an important season even if we townies haven't really seen the farmers hard at work gathering in crops and fodder for livestock. We also notice that our days are growing shorter. It shouldn't be but it's always a big surprise to me when I realise that the dawn is getting later and the gloaming of evening settles sooner. I feel Autumn has something in common with the ending of the day, a sense of winding down. Trees are starting to look naked again, grass stops growing, we put aside the freedom of summer and begin to withdraw into heavier clothes as we wrap ourselves around with more layers. In previous ages, ordinary people would have slept more in the winter, because they couldn't afford candles. Some people are adversely affected by the gloomy time of the year, lack of sunshine, and experience 'seasonal affective disorder' or 'SAD' for short. (One method of lifting ourselves out of gloominess and heaviness is to do cold water swimming! Get down to the sea!)

Autumn also brings the days of remembering, especially in November, especially this year which marks the centenary of the Armistice at the end of World War 1.

Of course we don't and can't stop just because it's cold and dark. The seasons turn. And the morning comes again after night. The prayers in the ancient service of *Compline* encourage us to rest, but also to look forward to the life and work which God gives us to enjoy.

The tradition of keeping the regular canonical hours of prayer is still practised by monks and nuns, and by some Christians in their daily lives outside of a monastic setting.

How would it be, even if we can't devote fifteen minutes every three hours, to say the monastic prayers, how would be if we did pause through the day, just for a minute or two, to be still, to give to God the people around us, the tasks we are grappling with, the worries or hopes we have in our hearts?

Stephen



WORSHIP GROUP –

SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER – 10am

We'll meet at church – it's been a long time, far too long, since we had a worship planning meeting.

Worship is not something the minister or the person leading worship Sunday by Sunday, 'does' to the congregation. Worship is the work, the offering of the people. That is what the word 'liturgy' means.

**An Elder Writes ...**

**Creationtide**

Many of you will know that I am a follower of Daily Devotions. As I am an early riser I look forward to Daily Devotions arriving on my lap top between 05.59 and 06.04. Recently we did a study on Ephesians, but every passage and reflection was not always 'my cup of tea.'

An e mail from The Revd. Andy Braunston informed me that we would now be looking at Creation. We would look at passages from both the Old Testament and the New regarding Creation.

We started with Genesis Ch 1, v1 when God decided to create His world out of a formless void. We can surely all enjoy reading about this, His wonderful, practical plans. Without these plans where would we be today?

Romans ch1 v18-23 tells us to be in awe of Him. It says by His eternal power and divine nature, although invisible have been understood and seen through His creation.

The Revd. Ruth Watson, who wrote the reflection on this passage tells us that we cannot know everything, but be inspired by all we see and attribute to God. Never mind the bits we cannot explain. I go along with this, always accepting God as Creator of all. I do not mind how he made order out of chaos. Common sense tells me it might have taken longer than a week, but order came out of God's intentions to create a world which includes you and me.

Let us move on to Psalm 33, a beautiful Hymn of Praise..  
The last verse says :

'Let all the earth fear the Lord  
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him  
For he spoke and it came to be  
He commanded and it stood firm.'

This is an excellent summary I think.

Alas, there had to be a day when I thought the reflection, not the passage, a bit silly. Turn again to Genesis read from ch 1 v26 -28 , the passage where God creates man and woman, tells them to be fruitful and multiply and he blessed them.

It seems that the person writing the reflection reckons that the passage has been interpreted in ways that exclude those who live act and think differently to others. God was simply giving good practical advice on looking after the earth, no mention of exclusion then or indeed now.

In the very helpful book Holy Habits, it says...

'Sometimes we name you Creator

We praise you for your creativity for the beauty of the world and of each human being, and for the diversity of each community.'

This is a fitting tribute to God our Creator ,if there can be praise enough for Him.

I imagine that most of us give thanks to Creation and the Creator for different things. No surprises then for my appreciation of

Babies , children, and family particularly mine, Dogs, Nature, Seasons

Most of all I give thanks that our Creator God sent His son to offer all of us a new way of living and creating joy and blessings in our lives.

Margaret

## ***Pulpit Supply***

### ***October***

**7th, 10.30am**

**Rev. Stephen Lewis  
HARVEST  
Communion**

**14th, 10.30am**

**Rev. Val Fernandez**

**21st, 10.30am**

**Mr Rob Moverley**

**28th, 10.30am**

**Rev. Judy Harris**

**A harvest Lunch will follow the service.**

**Donations of tinned foods please, for the local food bank \***



### **Mid Week Communion**

**Wednesday 10th September  
10.30am**

**Rev. Stephen Lewis**

***\* The food bank is currently exceedingly well stocked for pasta and baked beans, thank you! They are now starting to accept donations of Christmas food and chocolates.***





## Lectionary Readings

October

- 7th Job 1:1-2; Psalm 26; Genesis 2:18-24;  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
- 14th Job 23:1-9; Psalm 22:1-15; Amos 5:6-7, 10-15;  
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
- 21st Job 38:1-17; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;  
Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
- 28th Job 42:1-6; Psalm 34:1-6; Jeremiah 31:7-9;  
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52



**VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE**

**[www.vanroadurc.org](http://www.vanroadurc.org)**

## The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

October 2018

**Groups** All the regular groups are now back and we wish everyone a happy and successful autumn term

**Events:** By the time you read this edition of INFORM two more concerts will have taken place viz. the Piano and Euphonium Recital at lunchtime on 19th September with very experienced and award winning musicians. On 29th September an evening performance entitled 'Broadway to Bayreuth: a Night at the Theatre' with three opera singers: The standard of the performers at VAN-guard, whether they are singers or musicians, is getting higher each year. We are very fortunate that they choose to perform here. We hope there will be good size audiences to appreciate their musical talent.

### **Defibrillator presentation.**

On Saturday 15th September we attended the AGM of the Beeches Community Centre. The defibrillator was purchased by the Tommy Cooper Society with the fundraising money from our Gala Concert. As it was David Fortey's original idea to raise money for this project he was asked to present it. Wayne David M.P. Trustee and Chair of the Beeches Management Committee received the defibrillator on their behalf. It was pointed out by Wayne, David and Mr. Tudor Jones, Chair of the Tommy Cooper Society that this was a good example of community organisations working together. We were thanked for our generosity and all the hard work that went into raising the money.

### Future events

**Saturday 27th October at 1.00 p.m. tickets £7.00**

**'Music for the Mind' a Recital by Angharad Morgan,  
soprano, WNO Chorus**

**Accompanist Ryan Wood, Musical Director of the  
'Noteworthy Choir'**

The recital is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

I am sure we all know of folk suffering from dementia and will therefore wish to support this particular event. Angharad held a Cup Cake Morning at home in August when she raised £400.00. She and David will also be going on the Alzheimer's Fundraising Walk in October. We understand that Benjamin will be accompanying his parents. Angharad and Ryan are both superb performers that we have enjoyed their performances on previous occasions. Please come along and support this good cause and enjoy this special lunchtime concert.

### Further events/concerts dates in 2018

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7/7.30 p.m**

The Serenata Choir – a mixed choir from Cardiff. A warm welcome is extended to this talented choir that very much enjoys performing here.

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>-Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Arts, Crafts and Literary Exhibition.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2.00 p.m.** 'The Young Stars Christmas Concert'.

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

Caerphilly Community Chorus Christmas Concert.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00 p.m.**

'Cantare at Christmas' with David Fortey, tenor; Angharad Morgan, soprano and Ryan Wood, accompanist.

**The 6th Annual Arts, Crafts and Literary Exhibition.**

**13th-23rd November 11.00-3.00 p.m.**

**Sunday 12noon – 4.00 p.m.**

**Judges: Arts-Dr. Hefin David A.M. and Literature-  
Mrs. Jackie Askey**

We are pleased to announce our next exhibition and hope you will share the details with family and friends who may be interested in submitting work for the exhibition. This is an open exhibition with no particular theme suggested for the art or written work.

**Work is to be submitted on Wednesday 7th November  
3.30-6.30 p.m. (downstairs). There is a maximum of 3  
items per person with a charge of £1.00 per  
submission.**

**Art Work must be mounted or framed to enable hanging.**

This year an artist may also submit a mounted piece of work for sale which will be placed in an art rack. Work may be sold and an optional donation made for the work of VAN-guard.

**Written work to be typed in font 16 for ease of reading when work is hung, or submit electronically to our email address, so that we may enlarge it.**

**Entries are welcome from adults, pupils age 7-11 years and pupils 12-16 years.**

There will be the usual awards made for all categories as well as the visitors' art award. There will be

**The Spoken Word Session on the afternoon of 23rd November at 2.15 p.m.** after which the awards will be presented and work may be collected.

Please spread the word or collect flyers with all the details and make this exhibition as successful as those in previous years.

Mair.



Email: [mairjohn365@gmail.com](mailto:mairjohn365@gmail.com)

[www.vanguardcentrecaperphilly.org](http://www.vanguardcentrecaperphilly.org)

### Visitors to the Church

On Saturday 8th September Linda and Leon Williams came once again to see us and visit the church. Linda is of course the granddaughter of Revd. Edward Bush. They had not seen the restoration of the rooms on the ground floor, because it is four years since their last visit. They were also able to see that Linda's uncle, Iorwerth Bush's plaque has been placed on the church wall. Linda had given the plaque to the church for safekeeping. They are always so complimentary about all the work that we have accomplished on and in the building and make the effort to keep in touch and visit when able. Each time they come they think could be the last, because they are both in their 80's and live in Dover. Before leaving they gave us a generous donation of £200.00 for the church's Building Fund.

Mair and John

### **THANKYOU!**

I was very touched to receive many prayers, cards and good wishes before, during and after my operation in August. They are really appreciated.

Many thanks

Diane

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO....**

**Sarah and Paul**

**Expecting their first baby in March**

### **HARVEST FOODBANK DONATIONS**

When donating can you please be aware that the food bank is currently exceedingly well stocked for pasta and baked beans and that tinned fruit is always needed.

They are now starting to accept donations of Christmas food and chocolates. Thankyou!



## Together In Prayer

**October, please pray for ,,,,**

7th Edwardsville URC, Treharis, The Plough URC / UWI,  
Brecon

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia

14th Bethesda'r Fro URC, St Athan, Sardis Road URC,  
Llangynidr

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia,  
Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

21st Senghenydd and Abertridwr URC, Ebenezer URC,  
Upper Chapel

Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal

28th Bethesda URC, Tongwynlais, Llanover URC,  
Llanover

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



## ROTAS

**October**

**November**

<b>Stewards</b>
Margaret Baldwin
Kathy Vernalls
<b>Communion</b>
Margaret Craig
Enfys Hawthorn

<b>Stewards</b>
Hilary Ackerman
Steve Ackerman
<b>Communion</b>
Phyllis Frayling
Lynda Jones

**If unable to steward or serve**

**Please ask ANOTHER to cover**

### FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

7th	HARVEST- Margaret Webb
14th	Chris Harling
21st	
28th	Margaret Baldwin

**Thank you to all who donate flowers for worship**

## CHURCH ELDERS

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
Mrs Emma Fitzgerald	02920851525

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)

### Website:

[www.vanroadurc.org](http://www.vanroadurc.org)



***The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.***

***Luke 10:2***