

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
November 2018

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From our minister ...

Lest we forget ...

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate to hear a new opera at St. Mary Redcliffe Church in Bristol. 'Home at Last' was written specially for local community choirs and school choirs. My godson was singing a solo treble part in it which is why I was there.

The story of the Great War was told through the various characters. The officer was sung by a powerful bass baritone, exuding military confidence and unwavering belief in the cause. But as the story continued, his reflections on the war became more uncertain and gloomy as the death toll rose. The waste of life, the mess and obscenity of war, sowed doubts in his mind. The officer's son in the story, the boy treble, wanted to join up too, to travel with his father to the battle fields, but the twelve year old had to stay at home with his mother. Another woman, who married her boyfriend just before he enlisted, received the dreaded letter just as the Armistice was announced, telling her that her young husband had been killed. Well these are very common events in any war, but the atmosphere of the opera was powerful in evoking the feelings of the characters – the waste of life, the lives scarred for ever, the loss and loneliness, the terror of the trenches, the questions – and I had tears in my eyes at the end.

And perhaps it was the range of ages present in St. Mary Redcliffe, both audience and performers, which was so moving. Twenty-first century children from primary schools who sang in the choirs and were part of the story, helped re-tell events of a hundred years ago. War may be the least worst of many bad alternatives, but there are always consequences, personal, national and

international. I'm sure those children who took part will remember being part of, 'Home at Last'. And that is the point. Remembrance is vital to our humanity. Remembering heroism, remembering mistakes, and remembering that to move on we need to forgive and rebuild our shared humanity.

Also a few weeks ago, an orchestra I play in, gave a concert titled, 'A Commemoration of Composers of WW1'. The concert ended with a performance of 'Things to Come' by Sir Arthur Bliss. Bliss served in the Great War and was scarred emotionally by it, suffering wounds, gassing, and the loss of a brother and many friends, all of which left him with nightmares for the rest of his life. I read in the programme notes that after the War, he resented the influence of German composers on the musical world and the presence of German performers in Britain. He found it hard to forgive or to distinguish between the enemy he faced on the battle field and the people who share our humanity.

Armistice a hundred years bequeathed us a way of remembering. We need to do this as much as ever, to be honest about our humanity which can reflect the image of God, or can be cruel and chaotic. We need this remembering as much as ever, as we try to learn to forgive wrongs, and to pray and work for the peace and justice of God's Kingdom for all people.

SPI



CHRISTMAS CHOIR –

If you'd like to be part of a choir this Christmas – we're getting stronger each year – please speak to the minister.

We'd be looking to sing at the 6pm Christmas Eve carol service. Perhaps we could offer to sing at a residential home as well?

Christmas Eve Service – please invite your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues – it's a great way start Christmas!



All Saints' Day

As happened last year there will be a service at 7pm on the 1st of November.

This is an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in this short service of reflection.



From the Editor ...

Spare a Thought Next Time You Eat a Jelly Baby.

Did you know.....?

Jelly Babies were first launched in 1919 to celebrate the end of the First World War and were called 'Peace Babies' and quickly became popular.

Production stopped during the 2nd World War due to a shortage of ingredients. In 1953 they were reborn and named, 'Jelly Babies'. In 1989 each one was given a name and identity.

Bubbles is yellow with her hair in a pony tail.

Big Heart is grey and always puts his friends first.

Baby Bonny is pink and wears a nappy and frilly bonnet. She is always crawling into mischief.

Brilliant is the red leader of the gang.

Bumper is orange, wears a bum bag and bumps into things.

Boofuls is green. He is soft - hearted and cries a lot, even when he is happy.

The message is that Peace is enjoyed when people of different interests and appearances live together in harmony.

This Remembrance Day we acknowledge with gratitude those who have died (and continue to die) and those

injured and maimed in wars. Sacrifices which have allowed us to enjoy many, overall peaceful, years.

Peace can be a fragile and illusive goal but we continue to strive for peace in its many forms, in our day to day lives.

Mother Teresa said....

“Peace starts with a smile.”

Nelson Mandela said

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

Jesus said

“Happy are those who work for peace, God will call them his children. “

Diane



Pulpit Supply

November

Thurs 1st, 7pm

***All Saints Day Service
Rev. Stephen Lewis***

4th, 10.30am

***Rev. Stephen Lewis
Communion***

11th, 10.50am

***Mr John Wade
Remembrance Service
Please be seated by 10.30am***

18th, 10.30am

Dr David Jenkins

25th, 10.30am

Rev. Stephen Lewis

Mid Week Communion

***Wednesday 14th September
10.30am***

Rev. Stephen Lewis



FUTURE SERVICES

December

20th Rainbows and Brownies Christingle

23rd, 2.30pm All Age service followed by tea.

24th, 6pm Christmas Eve Carol Service

***25th, 10am Christmas Day Service—
Rev. Peter Noble***

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

- 1st, 7pm All Saints Day Service
- 2nd, 2pm Ecumenical Prayer Meeting
- 7pm Concert-The Serenata Choir
- Wed 7th, 10.30am Coffee with Enfys
- Tues 13th, 7pm Elders Meeting
- Tues 13th– Fri 23rd Arts, Crafts and Literary Exhibition.
- Thurs 15th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study
- Sat 24th, 10am Coffee Morning / Fund Raising
e.g. cakes, cards, raffle.

HARVEST FOODBANK DONATIONS

Many thanks for the generous donations to the Food Bank. The total weight was around 74kg.



We hold in our prayers -



Vernon Holland Bill and Jean Mutter

Tony Moore Phyllis Colwel

Barbara Lloyd Frank Frayling

Roland Lewis Rev. Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert

YOUNG WIVES



November

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies welcome no matter what their age.

5th Mr Keith Jones—Historian

12th Mr and Mrs Roger Lewis –Canada

19th Mrs Jute Williams—HHI

26th Mrs Irene Burrows—Singer

Lectionary Readings

November

- 4th** Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ;
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
- 11th** Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Kings 17:8-16;
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44
- 18th** 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Daniel 12:1-3;
Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8
- 25th** 1 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-18;
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37



VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

www.vanroadurc.org

The VAN-guard Centre November 2018 Report

Charity Registration number 1109193

Events: The two September concerts were superb. The quality of the performances on each occasion by both instrumentalists and singers are certainly raising the standard. The performers in 'Broadway to Bayreuth: a Night at the Theatre' enjoyed the venue and the warm welcome. They asked to make a return visit, so if you missed them you will have an opportunity to see them next May

Visit: On 16th October, Margaret Craig, John and I went to lunch at Abermill Residential Home in Abertridwr. The visit had been delayed because there had been an outbreak of tummy upsets there. Some of the residents come along to our Goldies Cymru sessions, so we already have a community link with them. While at Abermill we were presented with an enormous harvest hamper, and were asked to use it for some form of fundraising. We agreed with the staff that it should be raffled at Angharad Morgan's Recital in aid of Alzheimer's Disease to be held at VAN-guard on 27th October. The hamper items had been given by family and friends of the residents. It was so large that we still made two large hampers out of it, so I hope you were able to support the raffle. Next month I will report on that recital,

Tuesday 6th November Goldies Visit to Port Talbot

This will be the second get together of the Goldies Cymru groups across South Wales. We shall be travelling with groups from Bedwas and Trethomas, Newbridge and Ebb Vale. Apart from the Goldies, local school pupils will also be coming along to perform songs to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1.

Review of recent events.

20th October: We enjoyed an evening of varied music presented by Matthew Tilley, baritone, who was accompanied by a brilliant young pianist/organist Daniel Robert Cushing, Director of Music at St. Margaret's Church, Blackwood. They were joined by young members of the Musical Youth Theatre Wales. The singers, about 30 in all, were aged 9-16 years and they sang very well. They are based in Caerphilly and practice on Thursday evenings in the Workmen's Hall.

Further events/concerts dates in 2018

Friday 2nd November at 7.30 p.m. **The Serenata Choir** – a mixed choir from Cardiff. They come with a varied selection of music including Gilbert and Sullivan, Mozart and Verdi etc. We look forward to hearing them once again.

Saturday 1st December at 2.00 p.m.
'The Young Stars Christmas Concert'.

Angharad and David extend a warm welcome to Church and VAN-guard members.

Saturday 15th December at 7 or 7.30 p.m.
Caerphilly Community Chorus Christmas Concert. *N.B.*
The time has yet to be confirmed.

Sunday 16th December at 3.00 p.m.
'Cantare at Christmas'

with David Fortey, tenor; Only Men Aloud; Angharad Morgan, soprano, WNO Chorus; Ryan Wood, accompanist, Musical Director of the Noteworthy Choir and Bridgend Male Voice Choir. A great Christmas treat for all.



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.

2.15 p.m. The Spoken Word Session.

3.15 p.m. Presentation of Awards.

3.30 p.m. 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.

The VAN-guard Centre is always indebted to church members and friends who support the exhibition by helping to Meet and Greet, serve refreshments, and encourage visitors to vote for their preferred piece of work. We are never rushed off our feet during the open hours, but it always provides a good opportunity to chat and share refreshments with visitors and each other. May I therefore ask for your support once again? There will be a Rota for the ten days, available at the back of the church, with the relevant time slots. Thank you.

Mair. Email::mairjohn365@gmail.com
www.vanguardcentreaerphilly.org

Look Out For

2019 Concert Series

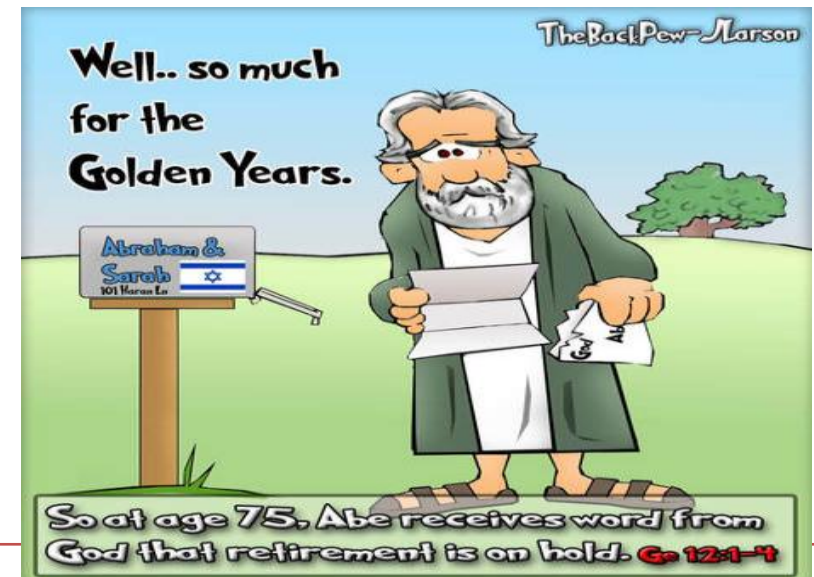
Daniel Cushing will be opening next year's concert series with a lunch time Organ Recital on Saturday 9th February. He is a frequent guest organist at recitals in Bath Abbey and at Truro Cathedral. Daniel is very busy with all the work he does at his own church, while also studying for his Masters' Degree at the University of Bath.

Trefeca Weekend

This year we had to cancel the Church Weekend in Trefeca as the numbers were not viable. It was disappointing but it has made some of the regulars start discussing whether this is just a 'blip' or if there is not enough enthusiasm for a weekend away. Could it be that people would prefer a different venue perhaps or do not want to give a whole weekend and would prefer just a day together somewhere?

Those that have been to Trefeca come back refreshed and enthused. It has been a golden opportunity to share fun and faith in a way that never happens at any other time in our busy lives.

Please let SPI or an Elder know your thoughts regarding the possibility of future 'get togethers,' your thoughts will be much appreciated.



Together In Prayer

November please pray for

4th Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth,
and staff in the Synod office

Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar,
Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles

11th St David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, Staff of Cytun.
The Moderator, staff and churches of Northern Synod
Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

18th Castle Square URC, Treforest, Staff of Christian Aid
in Wales, The Moderator, staff and churches in North
Western Synod,

Republic of Congo. Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

25th Van Road URC, Caerphilly, Our ecumenical partners
in Wales, The Moderator, staff and churches of
Mersey Synod

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial New
Guinea



Synod Priorities and Aspirations

At Synod meeting on 21st October, our Synod moderator shared with us the work the officers of the Synod have been doing in looking at the priorities and aspirations of the Synod. I thought it was worth reproducing this part of the paper, so that we, as church members are aware of the framework within which the officers of Synod work. As churches, we were also asked to consider the following questions:

Look inward: what is good about your church?

Look outward: what are the key needs of the people of Wales?

Look local: how are you involved in your community?

Loom Synod: how could synod help?

The Synod Officers' Meeting continues to work towards revising the synod's priorities and aspirations. As a stage in that process, we offer the following to Synod Meeting for consideration:

a) Our priorities relate to:

- The stories we tell ourselves to affirm who we are
- The vision we have to give us direction
- The markers we have to show how far we have come

b) We continue the traditions of God's people:

- Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8)
- Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done (Matt 6:10)
- Life in all its fullness (John 10:10)
- Loving God, loving others as ourselves, and making disciples (Matt 22:36-40, Matt 28:19)

c) Our 'core work' continues:

- Working with children, young people and their families
- Advising on buildings and fundraising, for effective maintenance and redevelopment for mission
- Training elders, ministers and lay people for the tasks of ministry
- Ecumenical co-operation
- Finance matters: budgeting, contributions from local churches, investments
- Forming pastorates and seeking ministers
- Encouraging congregations to take part in God's mission, in line with frameworks developed by the United Reformed Church and our partners

d) We will weave together threads of our lives that help us face the future:

- We will **build confidence** as part of the people of God:
 - ⇒ Encouraging each other in Walking the Way – living the life of Jesus today
 - ⇒ Promoting groups developing 'Holy Habits' through the use of the resource material
 - ⇒ Promoting Appreciative Inquiry and training people in its use to take positive steps based on the good things that we are already doing
 - ⇒ Providing 'Good Grief' training, to help people have confidence in handling bereavement and funerals.
 - ⇒ Developing disciples through using 'Stepwise', beginning with Faith-filled Lives
- We will **respond regionally**:
 - ⇒ Building relationships (especially those linking local churches and the Regional Pastoral Committees, and Regional Pastoral Committees with the Synod

Pastoral Committee) to give meaning to structures described on paper

- ⇒ Working within local contexts, whilst upholding common standards
- ⇒ Using local knowledge and listening to local concerns
- ⇒ Supporting the Regional Pastoral Committees in their identified priorities
- ⇒ Building teams to help develop ministry in each region

- We will **develop** the **capacity** of people to respond to change:

- ⇒ Aiming to do a few things well
 - ⇒ Working from where we are, rather than focusing on what we lack
 - ⇒ Building on the good things that are happening
- Responding to need in the communities we serve

e) We will ask guiding questions to shape the way we work:

- Share ecumenically – what can we do together?
- Look for synergy – how can we act as salt and yeast to make a difference?
- Recognise the issues that affect the lives of people in Wales and promote social involvement – how can we respond?
- Understand our URC identity – what do we bring to any situation? How are we known?
- Support volunteers so that they can fulfil their roles – Would people help more willingly, if they felt they had the help they need?
- Develop support networks of people – How do we encourage each other in a positive way?

f) We will devote time and resources to make progress on these aspects of our shared life.

g) We will monitor progress and report to Synod Meeting: responsive to changes, but developing these aspirations over a three-year period (2018 to 2021)

Please pray for the work of the Synod as they seek to support the work of local churches throughout Wales.

Rob Moverley

Things You Wouldn't Hear in Church.

Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time by 25 minutes.

Forget the denominational salary: let's pay our minister so s/he can live like we do.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!

Reverend, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

NOVEMBER

ROTAS

DECEMBER

Stewards

Hilary Ackerman

Steve Ackerman

Communion

Phyllis Frayling

Lynda Jones

Stewards

Margaret Baldwin

Cathy Vernalls

Communion

Margaret Craig

Emma Fitzgerald

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask **ANOTHER** to cover

FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 4th | Jen Viggers |
| 11th | Remembrance Sunday |
| 18th | The Moverleys |
| 25th | |

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

