

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
February 2019

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From our Minister

Not quite a sparkly new year, but the year is still young!
And this seems a good time to introduce some of the fresh resources, which are available to us ...



How can we grow and develop as disciples of Christ? Where can we find ways to help us grow in faith and live our faith? In being part of a faith community, worship, prayer, reading, being active in our wider community – these are integral to Christian life.

To help us in our walk of faith along the way of Jesus, the United Reformed Church has also been putting together resources for use by individuals and churches, under the general umbrella title **'Walking the Way.'**

When you look up Walking the Way, you may well see images of feet! This reminds us that we are all on a pilgrimage of faith, we are always learning, and there is an exciting journey ahead of us. However long or short our life as Christians so far, we too are disciples, like the people who followed Jesus long ago. That word 'disciple' means, 'someone who is learning'. And to recognise that we can keep learning all through our lives, is an exciting prospect.

Walking the Way is not a programme to follow, but an assembly of resources to help people to follow Jesus and to keep growing and thinking and doing. The resources are not contained in one book, but are also growing and changing, and there are all kinds of ways to get access to them – e mail, websites, social media and books.

There are things written in house by people in the United Reformed Church, there are things prepared collaboratively and ecumenically with people from many varied Christian traditions. And there are guides or directories on-line, to many other resources which might help us individually or in a church at a particular time.

The following chart below shows the resources which are there for us to use.

'Walking the Way' includes ...

'Daily Devotions'

This comprises a short reading from the Bible, a reflection and prayer, a concise and neat way to spend a little time with God. The Daily Devotions are written by ministers, elders, students, teachers, members, in the URC.

They can be delivered by e mail, text or accessed by Facebook.

It is easy to sign up. Daily Devotions have already proved very popular and are seen beyond our denomination.

'Holy Habits'

These are 12 booklets packed with practical ideas. The idea is that there are "holy habits" which we can encourage and practise. Holy here means whole, healthy, not holier-than-thou !

The habits are drawn from the life example of believers in the early church we read about in the Acts of the Apostles:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs

were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

(Acts 2. 42-47)

The booklets cover:

*Biblical Teaching, Serving, Fellowship,
Eating Together, Breaking Bread,
Gladness & Generosity, Prayer, Worship,
Sharing Resources, Making More Disciples*

Some churches have started to look at and develop one 'habit', one aspect of Christian life, at a time, over the course of a few months. They are helpful guides to read and dip into for fresh ideas. (The materials were first envisaged in the Birmingham Methodist Circuit, but have been developed with contributions from other denominations including the URC.)

URC Website – resources for worship

Online if you do a search for URC Walking the Way, you will find all sorts of ideas and liturgies and prayers for planning services of worship, and other events as well. Some of these resources come from the different Synods of the URC, some from the team of people who are guiding Walking the Way. You can simply start by finding the URC website: urc.org.uk

'Stepwise'

Stepwise offers more formal learning. Stepwise is the replacement for TLS (Training for Learning and Serving which has run for some decades). Individuals from different churches can meet together for more formal study and learning and practical activities. For local leaders, lay preachers, elders, or anyone who would like to learn with others – Stepwise offers a chance to meet people from other churches. It isn't only for people who feel a vocation to some form of leadership. The Synod Training & Development Officer for South Wales, Revd. Gareth Dyer, will be pleased to get Stepwise starting in our areas.

And if you are intrigued, puzzled or want to know more about Walking the Way, please speak to me or any of the elders at church.

SPI

FOODBANK DONATIONS

Thankyou for all your past contributions to the Foodbank. The Foodbank is currently very well stocked for food thanks to the generosity of churches, schools, businesses and the Caerffili community. So if you would wish to contribute such items as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, shower gel, tissues, toilet rolls, flannels etc. then these would be gratefully received. Thankyou!

An Elder Writes ...

St Valentine was reputed to be a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius. He was arrested and imprisoned for being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. The origins of Valentine's Day are murky. We do know that the ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia, a spring festival, on the 15th of February. With the introduction of Christianity, the holiday moved to the 14th of February--the saint's day that celebrated several early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

St Dwynwen's Day was celebrated in Wales on 25 January. St Dwynwen is the Welsh patron saint of lovers, which makes her the Welsh equivalent of St Valentine.

"What does the Bible say about love?"

The Bible has a great deal to say about love. In fact, the Bible says that "love is of God" and "God is love" ([1 John 4:7-8](#)); in other words, love is a main characteristic of who God is. Everything God does is driven and influenced by His love.

The Bible gives many examples of love: the caring provision of [Boaz for Ruth](#); the deep friendship of [David and Jonathan](#); the poetic, passionate love of [Solomon and the Shulamite](#); the enduring commitment of [Hosea to Gomer](#); the fatherly love of Paul for Timothy and John for the church; and, of course, the sacrificial, saving love of Christ for all believers.

[1 Corinthians 13](#). Here, love's characteristics are listed: love is patient and kind; love doesn't envy, boast, or dishonor others; love is not proud or self-seeking; love is not easily angered, doesn't keep a record of wrongs, and doesn't delight in evil; rather, love rejoices with the truth; love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres; love never fails ([1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#)). Of the greatest of God's gifts, faith, hope, and love, "the greatest . . . is love" (verse 13).

The Bible says that God was motivated by love to save the world ([John 3:16](#)). God's love is best seen in the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf ([1 John 4:9](#)). And God's love does not require us to be "worthy" to receive it; His love is truly benevolent and gracious: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, "Christ died for us". The Bible says that nothing can separate the believer from the love of God in Christ. God's love does not wax and wane; it is not a fickle, emotional sensation. God's love for sinners is why Christ died on the cross. God's love for those who trust in Christ is why He holds them in His hand and promises never to let them go.

Lynda



Children



I run and I play, go to the park every day

I am not a war child

I don't run and play, or go to the park every day

I am a war child

I go to the park, I am not afraid of the dark

I am not a war child

I don't go to the park, I am afraid of the dark

I am a war child

I have lots to eat, and sometimes a treat

I am not a war child

There's not much to eat, and never a treat

I am a war child

At school I learn and sing, Enjoy everything

I am not a war child

I am a child of war -

I cannot go to school. I do not play or sing. I am often afraid or hungry.

We pray for all children caught up in conflicts -

The children of The Yemen

The children of Sudan

The children of Syria

(Hannah aged 10)

Pulpit Supply

February

3rd, 10.30am

**Rev. Stephen Lewis
Communion**

10th, 10.50am

Mr Robert Moverley

17th, 10.30am

**Mr Gareth Dyer
(SYNOD Training Officer)**

24th, 10.30am

Richard and Sarah

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 13th February

10.30am



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Fri 1st, 2pm Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

Wed 6th, 10.30am Coffee with Enfys

Thurs 7th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

Sat 9th, 1pm Organ Recital

Thurs 21st, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

25th Feb-10th March FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 29th June

The 'BIG DAY OUT' at Builth Wells

Phyllis says

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and good wishes, they are really appreciated!

And we say

Thank you Phyllis for all that you did during your time as an elder

We hold in our prayers -



Vernon Holland Bill and Jean Mutter

Tony Moore Phyllis Colwel

Barbara Lloyd Phyllis and Frank Frayling

Roland Lewis Rev. Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert Margaret Craig

Phil Harris

YOUNG WIVES



February

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies welcome no matter what their age.

4th Mr Daniel Curtis
(Wales Air Ambulance)

11th Mr Alan Thorne

18th Rev. Malcolm Shapland

25th **HALF TERM**

Lectionary Readings

February

- 3rd **Jeremiah 1:6-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30**
- 10th **Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**
- 17th **Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6::17-26**
- 24th **Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38**



VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

www.vanroadurc.org

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

February 2019 Report

Review of recent events:

December 2018: The two Christmas Concerts held at VAN-guard were excellent. The Caerphilly Community Chorus Concert on 15th December was most enjoyable, with a good size audience despite the atrocious weather. The following afternoon Cantare at Christmas performed to a large audience. David Fortey was unable to perform due to a very heavy cold. However, his colleague, Steffan Hughes from 'Only Men Aloud' replaced him last minute and joined Angharad and Ryan. It was a wonderful celebration of Christmas music in English and Welsh and Steffan received a warm VAN-guard Centre welcome. We hope that they will **all** return to perform for us sometime this year.

Earlier in the month on 6th December a 'Business in the Community Conference' was held at VAN-guard. Its aim was to introduce business people to local voluntary organisations. It was a considerable amount of work to arrange, but a worthwhile exercise, which brought new people into the building. Comments received have been very good and there were many comments about the beautiful venue and the warm welcome given to participants. Business in the Community had been instrumental in providing the church with considerable assistance when we first began on the road to restoration. It was good to meet up with some of their officers once again.

2019 groups update: Regular weekly and monthly groups have resumed after the break. The only group on a delayed start is the Wednesday Drawing Class. The tutor, Jenny John, sustained a broken ankle just before Christmas and will not be able to start her classes before Mid/late February.

Many of the groups have increased their numbers which is good news, viz. Goldies Cymru, University of the Third Age, The Clarinet and Flutes Musicians' Group, the VAN-guard Art Group. Other private bookings include choral rehearsals and recording sessions.

This year the Caerphilly Community Chorus celebrates its 10th Anniversary and will hold a celebratory concert at VAN-guard on 5th July. However, the Choir will also be looking at appoint a new Musical Director for the autumn because Rosie Howarth will be finishing at the end of July.

Events: The VAN-guard Concert Series commence on:

Saturday 9th February at 1.00p.m.

Organ Recital by Daniel Robert Cushing.

Daniel is a very talented young musician who accompanied soloist performances here last year. He is an accomplished pianist and organist, currently studying a Masters' Degree at the University of Bath. Daniel is a frequent guest organist at recitals in Bath Abbey and at Truro Cathedral. He is also a composer and Conductor of the Choir at St. Margaret's Church in Blackwood. John and I have had the privilege of attending a couple of concerts at the church, which were arranged by Daniel, and at which he performed. He has promised to provide a varied programme of music for us to enjoy. This concert will be an excellent start to the new concert series.

Advance notice:

Saturday 2nd March evening

The Serenata Singers perform Brahms' Requiem.

Future events:

Concerts of a varied nature have been arranged every month until June as well as the Community Chorus' Christmas 2019 Concert and there are still concerts to be fitted in to the calendar. We therefore look forward to many months of exciting music performed by highly experienced professional and amateur singers and musicians. We have done our best to allow for sufficient time between events in this year's programme and hope for continued support from the church membership. Please share the details with your family and friends.

The first 2019 meeting of the Management Committee -29th January at 2.30 p.m.

Mair.

e mail: mairjohn365@gmail.com

www.vanguardcentrecaerphilly.org



A Message from David and Angharad

To everyone at Van Road URC ...

Thank you for allowing Benjamin to be christened in your beautiful church. We are so lucky that he gets to be part of the family at Van Road. Thank you also for his beautiful prayer book; it is a very special edition to his library and one we read every day.

Thank you, Stephen, for making the service so very special, people are still talking about it.

With love and thanks,

David, Angharad and Benjamin.

A Message from Paul and Liz (from Wernddu)

Just a little note to thank you for the lovely raffle prize, duly delivered by Lynda. It made the day even more pleasant since the 26th was Seren's birthday. The beautiful candle was delivered on the first Sunday of Advent so it made the occasion even more significant.

We do hope you made a lot of money for the church. Well done to you all and thank you for the warm welcome on that drizzly November morning.

Kind regards,

Paul and Liz.

Repeat Request Re: Trefeca Weekend

Last 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.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

February 24th—March 10th

Please support struggling farmers and craftspeople in developing countries by buying their products. This helps them pay for housing, healthcare, schooling etc.

Together In Prayer

February

Please pray for

3rd Salisbury Park URC, Wrexham, Christ Church,
Milford Haven, The General Secretariat and Staff at
Church House in London.

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

10th StJohn's URC, Buckley, Mount Zion URC/
Congregational Federation Church, Havorfordwest.
The Moderators of General Assembly.

Ireland and the United Kingdom

17th Mold URC/ Presbyterian Church of Wales, Keyston
URC.

Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands

24th Parkfields Community Centre, Mold, Nolton Haven
URC

Portugal, Spain, Italy and Malta



OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	B	G	S	H
J	U	Z	X	I	H	C	A	L	A	M	A
H	S	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	V	L	N
X	I	D	J	C	C	U	U	A	P	A	O
E	S	O	O	X	T	C	B	M	A	S	J
Z	E	Z	E	H	I	D	G	U	H	P	H
E	N	M	L	T	K	D	H	E	Z	R	A
K	E	K	I	N	G	S	R	L	N	K	I
I	G	V	E	X	O	D	U	S	Z	N	A
E	E	B	O	J	U	D	G	E	S	B	S
L	A	M	O	S	R	E	H	T	S	E	I

LEVITICUS	SAMUEL	NUMBERS	JOSHUA	
JUDGES	RUTH	KINGS	EZRA	ISAIAH
JOB	EZEKIEL	EXODUS	ESTHER	
PROVERBS	PSALMS	MALACHI	JOEL	
AMOS	JONAH			

Message via SPI from Dave and Philo

Thank you so much for your e mail. We are having a good time visiting folks and doing work in the apartment. No news on visa front yet though.

Thank everybody for asking after us, we are fine health wise on the whole.

Dave

Some Jokes

- Q Why are atoms catholic?
A Because they have mass.
- Q What is so funny about forbidden fruit?
A They create many jams.
- Q Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
A Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.
- Q What was Boaz like before he married Ruth?
A Ruthless.
- Q Why didn't they play cards on the ark?
A Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

The Good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. Mosquitos come close, though.

FEBRUARY ROTAS MARCH

Stewards	Stewards
Enfys Hawthorn	Phyllis Frayling
Dorothy Woodward	Margaret Baldwin
Communion	Communion
Emma Fitzgerald	Cathy Vernalls
Margaret Craig	Enfys Hawthorn

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

3rd	
10th	Van Guard
17th	
24th	

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 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



**God sees the little sparrow fall
It meets his tender view
If God so loves the little birds
I know He loves me too.**