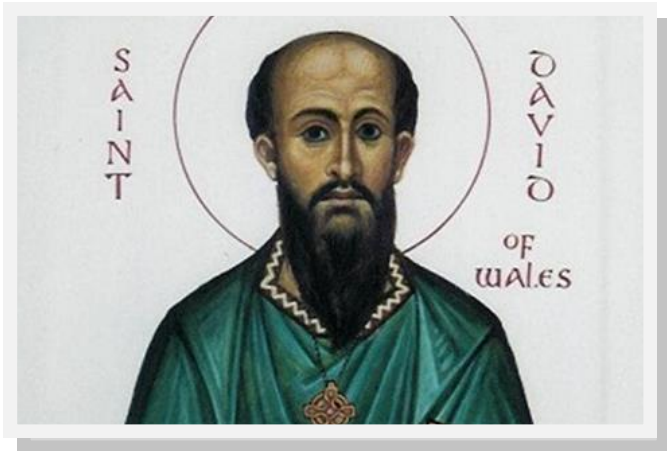


INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
March 2019

Minister

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Pulpit Secretary

Ms Lynda Jones

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From our Minister

LENT

It is hoped that there will be window displays in Lent based on -

The Mystery of God – Lent Course 2019
(Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)

Ash Wednesday

- The Mystery of Life & Death

1st Sunday –

- The Mystery of Good & Evil - Temptation

2nd Sunday -

- The Mystery of God's Glory - Creation

3rd Sunday -

- The Mystery of Sin, Suffering & Hope

4th Sunday - Mothering Sunday –

- The Mystery of Parenthood & Adoption

5th Sunday –

- The Mystery of Love & Sacrifice

6th Palm Sunday –

- The Mystery of Joy & Salvation

Swim Tayka



From our minister

We have all heard about the plaque of plastic in the seas, and how pollution, when there is a spillage, can kill a river's wildlife and complex ecosystems in hours.

We also know that water can be dangerous.

Swim Tayka is a small and fairly new charity, which works in developing countries, alongside local charities as much as possible. Volunteers teach swimming and stewardship of water, and teach local people how to teach these skills.

The charity helps to teach the ability to swim. In our world, someone drowns every 40 seconds. Most of these fatalities are in poorer developing nations, where despite the proximity of rivers or seas, many people cannot swim. And many of the people who drown are children, as both parents are working, and older children have to look after younger ones, and accidents inevitably happen.

The other work Swim Tayka does is teaching about care and stewardship of water. Water courses, streams, rivers and the sea, are vital for our food and health. So they need to be kept clean of refuse and sewage.



Channel Relay Swim

One of the ways Swim Tayka raises money is through sponsored swims. I am hoping to take part in an English Channel relay swim from Dover to Calais in mid-July this year. This involves a team of six, who have to swim for an hour each, in strict rotation, and there is no giving up when it comes to your turn again! (To be successful the team have to complete the swim in order, never touching the support boat, or another person, and no wet suit. The rules of the *Channel Swimmers and Pilots Federation* state that you can wear trunks or swimming costume, a swimming cap and goggles.) Some of the 22 miles, will be swum in the dark.

There are a few hurdles for me yet. To qualify, the *Channel Swimmers and Pilots Federation*, which is the organisation overseeing both solo and relay swims, requires that participants can spend 2 hours in water under 16 degrees centigrade. There is also a medical.

Why? You may ask! I have come to enjoy swimming, but as a child I had a terror of water. I learned to swim as a young teen – my best friend used the old method of pushing me in and making me swim! Later, as a student, travelling round Europe with an 'InterRail' ticket, I found that swimming could be enjoyable as I relaxed in warm Greek seas. Since then, I have swum regularly for exercise in swimming pools and enjoyed going in rivers and seas, even cold seas off the island of Iona. But I have a lot of work to do on my swimming technique!

I am going to cover the costs of the actual taking part in the relay swim myself, so everything donated will go to the charity. I hope to raise £1500 in addition to my own contribution. I will set up a giving page online, and would be very grateful if this is something you feel you can support.

Rob Writes

Last year, I was nominated to be a member of the URC's 'Accreditation Sub Committee'. This nomination was accepted at General Assembly. When I was nominated I was told the remit of this group is '*Maintaining the Roll of Ministers, and accrediting those applying for inclusion after training or coming from other denominations. It is also concerned with numbers and recruitment and it oversees the work of the national Assessment Board, whose convener is an ex-officio member of the committee*'. I have since learned it also has responsibility for approving applications for Special Category Ministry posts and subsequently reviewing these posts as the ministry is developed.

The Sub Committee meets 3 times a year, normally at the URC's offices in London and I have so far managed to attend one meeting. As this is my first involvement with National Committees I'm on a bit of a steep learning curve! For example, in addition to attending the meetings, members also undertake visits to discuss and assess first hand proposals for Special Category ministry; they also carry out interviews of ministers from other denominations and overseas who have applied for inclusion on the Roll of Ministers.

The meeting I attended was exceptional in that it was an overnight meeting in Manchester. The reason for this was that we had a joint session with the Church Related Community Workers (CRCW) Programme Sub-Committee, as there is some synergy in the responsibilities of the 2 Sub-Committees, albeit they are dealing with different types of ministry. As their name implies, both meetings are Sub Committees of the Ministries committee. This has a much wider remit that I have yet to work out, though their

convenor was a member of my committee. As you can imagine, some of the meeting's work was mundane - dotting the i's and crossing the t's of work that had previously been carried out . However, it also struck me how much care and concern went into the work that the group does. It also gave me and insight into some of the things that are happening in the United Reformed Church nationally. For example, we reviewed a number of applications for Special Category Ministry. For those that don't know, the United Reformed Church tries to ensure about 8% of its deployed ministers are engaged in Special Category Ministry. Special Category Ministry posts are broadly of three kinds:

- First, there have been new or priority areas of outreach where pioneering work is required and where it would not be appropriate to expect the Synod to provide a minister from the existing deployment quota.
- Secondly, there are chaplaincies: ministers in Work Place Ministry or in educational institutions, often universities.
- Thirdly, it has been possible to support innovative ministry in unique situations. These have included the West London inter-faith project and an Environmental Chaplain in Scotland. This ministry is One of the good things that arose from attending the meeting

In Wales, for example, Special Category Ministry was used in Llanfair, Penrhys, and also for the Chaplaincy in Cardiff Bay.

One of the other things that arose from the meeting was that I met a number of people whose names I have only seen before. For example, Revd Susan Durbar, who is now minister in Taunton, but has, in the past contributed to the prayer handbook and also contributes to Daily Devotions.

I also met Derek Estill who is currently Moderator of General Assembly. I told him a little about the transformation that has happened at Van Road and also some of the things that are going on in Penrhys. He is keen to visit South Wales during his time as Moderator (he was originally from Swansea), particularly as he is interested in seeing if he can learn anything from what we have done at Van Road to apply to his own church in Blackburn.

In a local church, we often forget the important work that takes, on our behalf, in the wider denomination, both in Synod and at National level, and the myriad of people engaged in this work. Please take time out occasionally to remember them in your prayers, and if you want to find out any more about what I'm doing, please ask.

Rob Moverley

SAD NEWS

We were so sad to hear of the death of Bill Mutter. Bill, with Jean, had been loyal members of Van Road and were, and still are, thought of most fondly by all that know them.

We send our love and prayers to Jean and the family.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th Feb-10th March FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

March

Fri 1st, 2pm Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

Sat 2nd, 7.30pm Concert, The Serenata Singers

Tues 5th, 5.30pm Shrove Tuesday, High Tea with pancakes and a quiz.

Wed 6th, 10.30am Coffee with Enfys

Thurs 7th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

Thurs 21st, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study

Sat 23rd, 1pm Cellist Recital

World Day of Prayer services

March 1st, 11am at Wesley

2.30pm at Windsor Road

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 29th June

The 'BIG DAY OUT' at Builth Wells

Pulpit Supply

March

3rd, 10.30am Richard and Sarah

**10th, 10.30am Mr. Lewis Lewis-Head
*First Sunday in Lent***

**17th, 10.30am Rev. Stephen Lewis
Communion**

24th, 10.30am Rev. Malcolm Shapland

**31st, 10.30am Mrs Carol Jones
*Mothering Sunday***

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday March 6th, 6.30pm

Mid Week Communion

Wednesday 13th March

Re. Stephen Lewis



Facts About Dewi Sant



- He really existed
- He was at the heart of the Welsh church in the 6th century
- He came from an aristocratic family in West Wales
- His mother was a saint, Saint Non
- His teacher was also a saint, St Paulinus
- He founded a large monastery in West Wales
- He was one of the early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of Western Britain
- He became Archbishop of Wales, but remained in his community at Menevia (now called St Davids)
- He was active in suppressing the Pelagian heresy
- His shrine became a great place of pilgrimage; four visits to the shrine at St David's were considered the equivalent of two to Rome, and one to Jerusalem!

The most famous story about Saint David tells how he was preaching to a huge crowd and the ground is said to have risen up, so that he was standing on a hill and everyone had a better chance of hearing him.

We hold in our prayers -



| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Vernon Holland | Jean Mutter and family |
| Tony Moore | Phyllis Colwel |
| Barbara Lloyd | Phyllis and Frank Frayling |
| Roland Lewis | Rev. Malcolm Shapland |
| Diana Hibbert | Margaret Craig |
| Phil Harris | |

YOUNG WIVES

March

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies welcome no matter what their age.

4th **Jacky Conway**
Growing up in Liverpool

11th **Sarah-Jayne**
John Lewis Fashion Adviser

18th **Dave Clarke**

25th **Martin Holdsworth-Quiz**



Lectionary Readings



March

- 3rd Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43a
- 6th Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12;
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- 10th LENT
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- 17th Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
or Luke 9:28-43a
- 24th Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
- 31st Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

www.vanroadurc.org

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

March 2019 Report

Review of recent events:

Groups update: The Wednesday Drawing Class with Jenny John will begin on 6th March at 1.00p.m. All other groups continue as usual.

The VAN-guard Concert Series 2019

Review. Organ Recital 9th February Daniel Robert Cushing

The audience was treated to a splendid recital of varied music. The organ sounded wonderful as we have not heard it played for a recital since it was installed. It is always a good indication of satisfaction when members of the audience ask when the performer will be returning.

I

**he VAN-guard Centre Concert series continues
with exciting events:**

Diary Dates

**Sat. 2nd March at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £12; concessions
£10.**

The Serenata Singers perform Brahms Requiem plus music by Mendelssohn, Schubert and Faure.

Soloists: Lucy Mellors, soprano; Matthew Clark, baritone.

Accompanists: Emma Cayeux and Giordano Ferla.

Saturday 23rd March lunchtime concert at 1.00 p.m. Tickets £6.

A French Afternoon with the Heulwen Quintet- exploring two composers' journeys of WW1 through Chamber Masterpieces. The post graduate students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama include a pianist, cellist, two violinists and viola player.

Advance notice

Saturday evening 13th April Piano Recital

Emma Cayeux and Giordano Ferla. More details to follow.

Saturday 4th May at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £10.

The Champagne Quartet will perform excerpts from Handel's Messiah and other Operatic favourites

Music from Opera and the Classics.

Lee David Bowen, Helden tenor; Richard Lee Thomas, tenor; Angharad Watkeys, soprano; accompanist Nicola Rose.

Wednesday 12th June at 1.00 p.m. Piano Recital Conal Bembridge-Sayers

A frequent visitor to VAN-guard; this concert will be part of his South Wales tour.

N.B. To be confirmed.

Saturday 20th July

The Third Annual David Hawthorn Memorial Concert

Llantrisant Male Voice Choir evening concert in aid of the Alzheimer's Society..

Wednesday 25th September at 4.00 p.m. tickets £7.00

Piano Recital by Dan Phelps followed by afternoon tea.

Dan, composer and pianist, and will launch his new album to be recorded in May.

Other events and concerts continue to be arranged

**The next meeting of the Management Committee –
Wed. 20th March at 10.30 a.m.**

Mair.

e mail: mairjohn365@gmail.com

www.vanguardcentrecaerphilly.org

Other related events:

Caerphilly Community Chorus Concerts 2019

Friday 1st March 7.30 p.m. at Wesley Methodist Church tickets £5

Phil Begley Memorial Concert presented by the Caerphilly Community Chorus.

At the VAN-guard Centre

Friday 5th July at 7.30p.m. 10th Anniversary Concert

Friday 13th December, 7pm -Christmas Concert.



Lent Lunches 2019

| Date | Venue | Churches |
|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 08/03 | Wesley | Wesley |
| 15/03 | Van Road | Van Road Windsor Road St Helens |
| 22/03 | Wesley | The Benefice |
| 29/03 | Wesley | Tonyfelin Bethel Nantgarw Road |
| 05/04 | Wesley | Mount Carmel Bethel Penyrheol |
| 12/04 | Wesley | Benefice |



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.



Message from Jan Tucker from the 'Fair Do's' shop

'We have your (Van Road's) sales figures for 2017/18 now, so we can let you know that you sold £978.50 of products from Fair Do's Siopa Teg in the year September 2017 to the end of August 2018. Well done, and a big thank you for your work

Diolch o galon '

(Many thanks for your continued support of our Fairtrade table of goods. It does make a difference!
Diane)

Together In Prayer

March

Please pray for

- 3rd Old Colwyn URC and Tiers Cross URC
Germany and France
- 10th Rhos on Sea URC, Colwyn Bay and
Wolfsdale URC, Camrose
Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra,
Monaco and San Marino
- 17th Tabernacle URC, Holywell and Crundale URC
Myanmar, Thailand
- 24th Horeb URC, Dyserth and Zion's Hill URC
Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam
- 31st St. John's with Bagllit URC, Flint and
Reynaldston URC
China, Hong Kong and Macao



Fabric and Safety Committee

Report to Church Meeting 3 February 2019

In a recent sermon by Lewis we were encouraged to treat all problems as challenges!

We again have a problem which will be a significant challenge.

The recent Fire Risk Assessment identified a shortfall in both the emergency lighting and the Fire Alarm system.

Not only is the alarm system not compliant with current regulations but it also should be tested weekly and a record of the tests kept. In the unlikely event of a fire, the Fire Officers will ask to see our test log, and the lack of a record of regular testing could cause us legal problems under the Health and Safety Act.

I am currently exploring the cost of installation of a suitable alarm system. By the 10 February I should have quotations from three different, trusted installers of fire alarm systems. The cost is likely to be up to £8000, although we will make every effort to keep this to the minimum.

We are exploring ways of funding this project. We hope to get grant support, but we may well have to partly match-fund the amount we get. This could well significantly reduce our reserves. We possibly may have to have another fund-raising exercise within the church membership.

We have already started the installation of the additional emergency lighting, with favourable terms from our

contractor. We have already started the installation of the additional emergency lighting, with favourable terms from our contractor. This is needed not only for the event of a fire but also for the possibility of a power outage in the church or surrounding area.

You may have already noticed the appearance of new illuminated fire exit signs. This project is being completed in stages to reduce the impact of the cost.

I am aware of the continued challenge to a small congregation in meeting the maintenance costs of our lovely Listed Building.

David Jenkins

Chair, F&S Committee

Correction and Apology

In last month's Inform the poem 'War Child' was not submitted by Hannah but was submitted and written by Margaret Craig. Margaret had written it especially for the Brownies to read as part of the service.

Sorry for the confusion, Margaret.

ROTAS

MARCH

Stewards

Phyllis Frayling

Margaret Baldwin

Communion

Cathy Vernalls

Enfys Hawthorn

APRIL

Stewards

Hilary Ackerman

Stephen Ackerman

Communion

Rob Moverley

Diane Moverley

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 3rd | Jen Viggers |
| 10th | Sally Ball |
| 17th | Diana Hibbert |
| 24th | Cathy Vernalls |
| 31st | Young Wives |

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 -

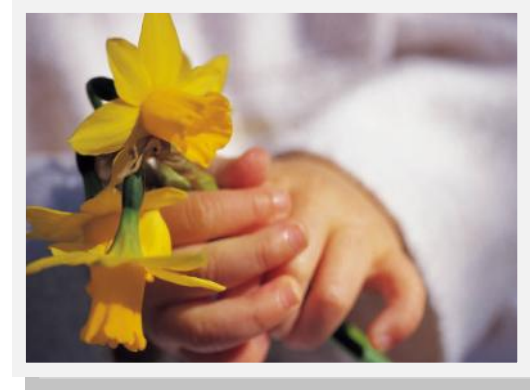
Mrs Diane Moverley

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



'Remember to do the little things.'

Dewi Sant