

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
Caerphilly
June 2019

Minister

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From our Minister

“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

This is probably the last letter I shall write for the churches in the Valleys Pastorate, though even as I write there isn't a definite moving date as details of accommodation or temporary accommodation, are worked out in the Twickenham & Hampton Hill Pastorate. It should be sometime towards the end of June.

This year June is also the month when we celebrate Pentecost, one of the big festivals in the Christian church. Originally Pentecost was one of the Jewish harvest festivals, where the gentler climate meant there were a number of harvests during the year. After the Jewish Temple was destroyed, the festival became a time when the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai, was celebrated. And then in the Book of Acts we read that Pentecost was also the time when God's Spirit came among the early followers of Jesus, inspiring and invigorating them in the good news of Jesus. The church today still offers a different way of being and living. Perhaps we do not dare the radical sharing that we read about in Acts, but Christians are very active in looking after the poor, the sick, the weak those who find

they are on the outside of society. And the community of the church is focused on worship, centred on God, and gets its energy from meeting together regularly.

I have really enjoyed getting to know people in the Valleys Pastorate, and sharing the journeys of life, the highs and the lows, reading and puzzling over scriptures together, shaping worship together, singing, working with young people and older people, meals, laughter, seeing the many gifts and talents which each person brings. These few years have given me time to work out what I should do. I am sorry to be leaving so soon but I do believe it is the right decision.

For the churches, it is an opportunity to look at church life again, perhaps to reach out and make new connections. The churches will be guided by Synod (and in the case of Merthyr, also Presbytery) as they take stock and look ahead. We live in times when there are reduced and reducing numbers of ordained ministers, but we have also been reminded that ministry is a calling for each and all. The resources called 'Holy Habits', a series of booklets produced by the URC and Methodist churches, have been bought by two of the churches in the Pastorate, and the starting point of these booklets are the words from Acts quoted above. The URC has also been encouraging us to get know other churches and to work together in regional pastoral groups. We do often just get on with things ourselves, and it is takes time to ask and arrange to meet others, but often 'the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.' Building relationships is a process. As we get to know and trust each other, more ideas will be generated. So we need to commit to meeting together regularly. This is true within a denomination and ecumenically between denominations. It can be refreshing and exciting to meet new people and discover new ways.

Thank you to all the people in my churches in Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly and Merthyr, for your faithfulness, hard work, kindness, encouragement, friendship, and for all you have taught me and shared with me.

God bless you.



In Christ,
SPI.

WELCOME To A

'RAIN OR SHINE' BBQ

- to say goodbye, thanks and best wishes to SPI before he leaves us at the end of June.

at

Rob and Diane's

Date to Confirmed.



* From the Editor *
* When I was young we would go to my grandmother's *
* house most Saturday afternoons. My Great Aunt Flo *
* and my Great Aunt Iris also lived there. They lived in *
* Cathays. *
* Great Aunt Flo was special; gentle and kindly, always *
* wearing her long silver hair in a bun at the nape of her *
* neck. Every Saturday I would be invited into her living *
* room for tea. Usually, we would have sandwiches and *
* cakes, unless it was cold, then we would toast bread *
* over her coal fire. It was a cosy room and I looked *
* forward to spending time with her and she looked *
* forward to my visits. *
* Aunt Flo loved to sing and she would take down a *
* very large red hymn book and we would often choose *
* and sing hymns together. *
* In her early 90s, Aunt Flo went into a nursing home as *
* she could no longer care for herself and was *
* gradually experiencing the symptoms of dementia. *
* I was very sad that our Saturday sessions ended and *
* some Saturdays, when I could, I would walk to the *
* nursing home to visit her. She always loved my visits *
* but, sadly, needed reminding who I was each time. *
* Aunt Flo's room, while in Cathays, had a variety of *
* postcards on display with sayings and poems . One *
* rather sentimental poem, I learned 'by heart.' *
* Whenever I recall it, it brings back lovely memories . *

Poem on a postcard in Aunt Flo's Room.

The Little Things

God be thanked for little things
that mean so much to me,

The laughter of a little child,

A blue tit on a tree,

A snowdrop or a primrose

Raindrops on new sprung grass,

The first kiss of morning dew.

Frost patterns lined on glass.

And Oh, the bliss of little thoughts that love has blest
with wings

To fly straight to the lonely heart,

Praise be for little things.

(Anon)

Diane



Fellowship and Bible Study in June

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF WEEKS.

We will meet during:

WEEKS 2 and 4 on THURSDAYS 13th and 27th JUNE
at 10.30 a.m.

Mair.

ORDINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev Judy Kirby

June 22nd, 2.30pm

At

The Plough, Brecon.

All welcome!





THANKYOU! To

All who collected and or donated to
Christian Aid Week.

We will give the total raised in next month's
Inform

Particular thanks to Lewis for taking the Christian Aid
Service and to the members of the congregation who
donated money having used the 'Count Your
Blessings' booklet.

GOOD NEWS

Roy and Nina are pleased to announce that Roy's
tumour has shrunk and no more treatment is
needed at present.

They would like to thank all members and friends
in Van Road for their love and support during this
stressful time.



PULPIT SUPPLY

June

2nd, 10.30am

Rev. Stephen Lewis
(Communion)

9th, 10.30am

Dr David Jenkins
Pentecost

16th, 10.30pm

Rev Malcolm Shapland
Trinity Sunday, Fathers' Day

23rd, 10.30am

Rev Stephen Lewis
(Flower Festival Weekend)

30th, 10.30am

Mr Lewis Lewis-Head

Midweek Communion Service

Wednesday 12th June

10.30am

Rev Stephen Lewis



Diary Dates

June

- Sun 2nd, 3pm Concert with Cantare
- Wed 5th, 10.30am Coffee with Enfys
- Fri 7th, 2pm Ecumenical Prayer Meeting
- Tues 11th, 7pm Elders' Meeting
- Wed 12th, 1pm Piano Recital
- Thurs 13th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study
- Thurs 29th Setting up for Flower Festival

**Fri 21st-Sun 23rd, 10am-4pm
Flower Festival**

- Thurs 27th, 10.30am Fellowship and Bible Study
- Sat 29th The 'BIG DAY OUT'
at BUILT WELLS
- Sat 29th, 12 noon Guitar Concert

SPI's Farewell BBQ—Date and Time TBC

FLOWER FESTIVAL

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO 'MEET AND GREET'
AND SERVE REFRESHMENTS PLEASE.**

We hold in our prayers -

- Vernon Holland Jean Mutter and family
- Barbara Lloyd Phyllis and Frank Frayling
- Rev. Malcolm and Barbara Shapland
- Diana Hibbert Roy Collins
- Gwyneth Jones
- Cathy Vernalls and family Dorothy Lewis and family



YOUNG WIVES

June

Mondays 7.30pm

All ladies welcome no matter what their age.

3rd Mrs Linda Thomas—Quiz

Leprosy Mission money in please

10th Mrs Danielle Muirhead—Brazil

17th Summer Meal

24th 'Trinkets and Treasures'



Lectionary Readings



June

- 2nd Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; John 17:20-26
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; 9th
- 9th Pentecost
Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:24-34,35b;
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, 25-27
- 16th Proverbs 8:1-4; Psalm 8: Romans 5:1-5;
John 16:12-15
- 23rd 1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a; Isaiah 65:1-9;
Psalms 42 and 43; Galatians 3:23-29;
Luke 8:26-39
- 30th 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20;
Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

INFORM

Please note that the next edition of Inform will cover July and August.

Please send any contributions by June 19th.

Thank you!

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193 JUNE 2019

Report

Groups update: The Drawing Class with Jenny John ended on 22nd May and will resume on WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER at 1.00 p.m. Other groups continue as usual.

Review of recent events:

Saturday 4th May at 7.30 p.m. The Champagne Quartet:

A delighted audience was treated to an excellent performance by the four young singers. Three of them were returning for the third time viz. Erin Alexander and Clare Eccles, both sopranos, and Ross Wilson, tenor. They have been coming to VAN-guard since they were students, but are now making their own way in their chosen music fields. However, they still get together from time to time as the Champagne Quartet. The new member of the group was baritone Thorvald Blough from California. They gave fine renditions of excerpts from Handel's Messiah in the first half of the programme. After the interval they performed with great gusto and humour some favourite operatic pieces. It was a lovely evening of superb music.

They have asked to come back sometime next year. Erin Alexander has written a one woman show, which she takes to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. We hope to find a slot in our busy concert programme timetable for her come along and perform it. We wish Ross good luck as he appears with English National Opera this summer.



The VAN-guard Concert Series 2019 continued

As summer comes along we have a wealth of good music planned with a considerable variety of content. Some events will be with performers we know, while others will be appearing with us for the first time.

JUNE

Sunday afternoon 2nd June at 3.00 p.m. Cantare Vocal Duo Summer Concert Tickets £10.

'From Covent Garden to Broadway'

Our first concert will be with great friends of VAN-guard and the Church viz. David Fortey, tenor with the well-known singing group, Only Men Aloud; Anghard Morgan, soprano, Welsh National Opera. Once again they will be accompanied by the well-known and experienced pianist Ryan Wood. They are all seasoned performers and always bring great pleasure to their audiences as they perform with much humour and great talent.

Sunday 9th June – lunch time 'The Young Stars Summer Concert.'

Church and VAN-guard members have an open invitation to attend this concert when the young people perform for their families and friends. This year it will take the form of a café style concert and will start around **12.30 p.m.** So why not stay on after morning service and enjoy listening to the young people singing while you enjoy tea/coffee and cake. There will be no entrance fee but a donation in its place.

Wednesday 12th June - lunch time concert at 1.00 p.m. Tickets £5.

Piano Recital by Conal Bembridge-Sayers.

Once more we have the opportunity to enjoy the brilliant piano playing of Conal. The concert is part of his South Wales tour, when his programme will feature works by composers born in or influenced by Wales. We are pleased that Conal requested VAN-guard as a venue during his tour, because his versatility on the keyboard means he is in great demand as a performer, tutor, accompanist and composer. Conal works at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama as well as accompanying on piano famous artists such as Shirley Bassey in concert.

Saturday 29th June 'All Strung Out' Guitar Duo - a lunchtime concert at 12 NOON Tickets £5.

Chris Fry and Andy Mulligan are new performers to VAN-guard. They are accomplished players on guitar and present a very varied programme of music, so there should be something for everyone to enjoy. They are both teachers in Aberdare and come to us through David Fortey, who had been 'singing' the praises of VAN-guard to them. They perform at many charity events and are in considerable demand. **Please note: This concert is an hour earlier than our usual lunchtime performances because the artists are giving another concert in the evening.**

Advance Notices for JULY

Friday 12th July – 'Caerphilly Wind and Strings' lunchtime Concert at 1.00 p.m. Tickets £5.

This is a quite a new group which rehearses at VAN-guard once a month. It consists of players of wind and string instruments and they have come to us through Mr Nigel

Jones, a founder member of this group. Those church folk that have heard them rehearse in the building say they sound wonderful. Why not come along and find out? They are generously giving this concert in aid of VAN-guard.

Saturday evening 20th July at 7.00 p.m.

The Annual David Hawthorn Gala Memorial Concert
Tickets £12.

Cor Tadau Trisant with Meriel Andrew, soprano, WNO Chorus; Nathan Isaac on clarinet.

The accompanist is Ryan Wood. The Host for the evening is David Fortey.

This is a new choir under the direction of Tim Edwards. Already making a name for themselves in the music world, they perform traditional Welsh hymns, choral classics and classic pop hits. The concert will be in aid of the Alzheimer's Society which is this year's charity chosen by VAN-guard.

Ordering tickets will be advisable.

Please note: ticket price and concert time have been corrected. They are not as appeared in May's issue of INFORM.

We continue to receive requests from artists, both amateur and professional, singers and instrumentalists that wish to perform here. We now have to suggest performances in 2020!

Events and concerts already arranged for later this year will be published in due course.

Also at VAN-guard: Friday 5th July at 7.30p.m.

Caerphilly Community Chorus Concerts 2019
10th Anniversary Concert

The years seem to have flown by since the Chorus first began here as a mixed community choir. Under the baton of Mr. Nigel Jones success came quickly to the Chorus. It grew in number and achieved great many successes in competition. The Chorus is truly a community choir with much involvement in local community activities. Nigel's successor was Rosie Howarth, who has continued much of the good work that Nigel established. However, in order to further her career in conducting, Rosie is moving to London. Hopefully by September there will be a new Music Director appointed. In the meantime the Chorus will celebrate their 10th Anniversary Concert at VAN-guard. The Chorus will also perform at the Big Cheese at the end of July before breaking up for the summer vacation.

The VAN-guard Centre Committee wishes to send all best wishes to Rosie for further success in her career and thank her for her time at the Centre.

Mair

e mail: mairjohn365@gmail.com

www.vanguardcentrecaerphilly.org



Together in Prayer

June

Please pray for

2nd Baily Street Uniting Church, Brynmawr and
Tabernacle URC, Rhyaader

Botswana and Zimbabwe

9th Caersalem United Church, Ebbw Vale and
Penuel URC.

Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland

16th New Street Presbyterian/ URC, Welshpool

Angola and Mozambique

23rd St Mellons Local Ecumenical Partnership, Cardiff
and Sarnau URC

Brazil

30th Pontprennau Local Ecumenical Partnership,
Cardiff and Horeb URC, Builth Wells

Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay



WEATHER AND CLIMATE

O	G	G		T	C	L	W	B	N	H	T	E	W
S	N	B	S	W	L	F	C	L	I	M	A	T	E
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M	A	W	T	O	Y	W		A	Z	U	N	E	E
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P	A	M	Y	D	N	I	W	O	O	H	S	T	B
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I	L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T	Z	Z	S	C	M
F	G	B	L	U	S	T	E	R	Y	E	S	D	P

WEATHER CLIMATE BLIZZARD RAIN
DROUGHT GLOBAL WARMING MIST FOG
TROPICAL FLOOD DRIZZLE SUNSHINE
OZONE CLOUDY TEMPERATE WINDY
WET DRY STORMY FINE
HURRICANE TYPHOON BLUSTERY DAMP

PRAYER

Remember us all, Lord, for good.
 Have pity on us all, be reconciled with us all.
 Fill our storehouses;
 Preserve our marriages, nurture our children;
 Lead forward our youth, sustain our old;
 Comfort the weak-hearted, gather the scattered;
 Restore the Wanderers, and unite them to your Church.
 Set free the troubled;
 Voyage with the voyagers, travel with the travellers;
 Protect the widow, shield the orphan;
 Rescue the captive, heal the sick.
 Remember, O Lord, all those who are on trial,
 In exile, or in whatever affliction,
 And remember all those who need your great mercy.
 Remember those who love us, and those who hate us;
 Remember those who through ignorance and forgetfulness, we have not mentioned.
 Pour out your rich pity and save all your people, O Lord.

Lancelot Andrewes, 1555-1626

This taken from a Reflection in 'Daily Devotions.'

ROTAS

June

July

Stewards
Margaret Baldwin
Phyllis Frayling
Communion
Lynda Jones
Cathy Vernalls

Stewards
Carol Jones
Chris Harling
Communion
Rob Moverley
Diane Moverley

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS FOR JUNE

2nd	
9th	Cathy Vernalls
16th	Chris Harling
23rd	FLOWER FESTIVAL
30th	

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



And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?

My only hope is in you.

Psalm 39:7