

INFORM



**URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
NOVEMBER 2019**

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder writes ...

What is there to like about November? Not a lot really, for most people. This time of year, we feel the effects of Autumn with its early dark nights, the cold in the air and to say the rain is welcome is an untruth.

It's a time of year when we do have to look after each other, we need to look after those who are vulnerable. Who are the vulnerable? The list is extensive because the darkness and hardships of life stretch across generations. We are vulnerable when our bodies and minds are at danger of illness, we are vulnerable when we don't have somebody to talk to, we are vulnerable when we have nowhere to go, to name just a few.

As individuals and as a congregation we have suffered the loss of individuals who we will miss from our lives and our Church. This can be a cruel time and it is amplified by the changing of seasons, as we approach the end of the year, we all spend time in remembrance of family and friends we have lost and who we miss most dearly.

To add to my gloomy thoughts, I add the disaster this world is facing with the state the world has been led into because of the want of greed of power and money. We can only look on and wonder when world leaders will stop playing war games with the human race and our planet? We look on with despair that our world is being divided by this greed, a division which is getting worse and not better.

However, there is something which lights our sparks, something which is so great, something which offers endless light and love in these testing times for us and for the world. Jesus lives and he is the light in our lives and the world.

The other week I found something which has suddenly become very special in my life at this moment. I was searching for some new music to listen to, I remembered the song 'Hallelujah', which was written by Leonard Cohen. I went on from here and listened to much more of his music and found this poet turned musician could give me the words to inspire me.

One of his songs called Anthems, has the words, "there is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in". Words that inspired me because I know that Jesus is the light! This my inspiration for the thought that when we use our energy to seek God, imagine you hold a light bulb in your hands, when you direct your prayers and thoughts feel the warmth and light this gives to the world.

Whatever is wrong, whenever darkness seems to totally overwhelm us or our friends or the world there is a crack which we can shine through. Our faith allows us to be able to sometimes break this darkness which surrounds us but there are also those times when we need help. For those friends, for the stranger or for the world where they can't find light then we have been called as Christians to be their flame to find that crack in their darkness.

The truth through Jesus Christ, is an incredible gift which has been given to us, it's a gift which is hard to sometimes understand and probably hard to always accept, why should we be so special? This gift is of course there for everyone. When the apostles went to spread the word of God, it wasn't the words they spoke which changed people's lives it was their actions. Yes, you listen to wise words but you also need to feel the actions of the holy spirit to have faith.

Bishop Desmond Tutu said words to this effect, do the little things in life well because they are what make the big changes in other's people's lives. Help bring light to this world by living as disciples of Christ in your everyday life, let your actions be the actions of Christ.

Amen

Lewis



ELDERSHIP

Elders in Van Road are elected to serve for 3 years and given the option of another 3, after which they have to step down for at least a year.

Next year Enfys and Diane will have to step down. Please give prayerful thought as to who might replace them. Could it be you perhaps?



From the editor ...

Are you afraid of spiders?

Sitting watching television recently Rob and I saw a large spider emerge from behind the cabinet and stop in the middle of the room. We quickly put a glass over it and put it outside (though it probably wasn't impressed as it was a house spider.)

When staying in Bristol with our daughter's family, our 2 grandsons (aged 4 and 6) came rushing into our bedroom one morning in 'hot pursuit' of a spider, no glass for them they were going to catch it in their hands. To their disappointment, it escaped behind the skirting.

This time of year we become more aware of spiders in our homes and gardens. Apparently, many are looking for a mate. We marvel at their intricate webs which look particularly beautiful when the sun shines on them or they are hung with water droplets.

Every day for the past week , while washing up at the kitchen sink , I have been able to admire a large intricate web outside spun from top to bottom of the window. Invariably the spider is located right in the centre of it. It is a European Garden Spider or Cross Orb-Weaver.

Despite the wind and rain it waits patiently, continuing to repair any damage.

Some may think they are scary but there's a lot to be learned and admired from looking at a spider!

Diane



YOUNG WIVES

From 7.30pm



November

- 4th Mr Martin Holdsworth
Quiz
- 11th Mrs Judith Angell
Christian Mission Charitable Trust
- 18th Mr Tony O'Neill
Beekeeping
- 25th Mrs Irene Burrows
Singer

Change of dates:

Fellowship and Bible Study in November

Our sessions will take place in weeks 2 and 4
because of previous commitments,

Viz. on 14th and 28th November at 10.30 a.m.

Mair

November

- 3rd 10.30 a.m. Mr Dave Clarke
- 10th 11 a.m. Mr John Wade
Remembrance Sunday
Please be seated by 10.50am
- 17th 10.30 a.m. Rev Malcolm Shapland
Communion
- 24th 10.30 a.m. Mr Alun Williams

Mid-week Communion

Wed 13th November

10.30a.m.

Rev Malcolm Shapland

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY

To

Jean Mutter

All at Van Road send their love and
best wishes.



Diary Dates



November

Wed 6th, 10.30am **Coffee with Enfys**
Wed 13th, 6pm **Elders' Meeting**
Thurs 14th, 10.30am **Fellowship and Bible Study**
Thurs 28th, 10.30am **Fellowship and Bible Study**
12th-22nd **Annual Arts, Crafts and Literary Exhibition**

BIRTHDAY INVITATION TO CHURCH MEMBERS

Jean Mutter will be 90

on Thursday 14th November

She will have an 'Open House'

She would love it if any church members could call in on the day, anytime after 2pm to share her celebrations.

21, Lon Isaf, Bondfield Park

Rotas for November

Stewards

Steve Ackerman

Hilary Ackerman

Communion

Margaret Craig

Lynda Jones

Rotas for Decemberr

Stewards

Margaret Craig

Cathy Vernalls

Communion

Diane Moverley

Rob Moverley

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS

November

3rd Jen

10th Enfys

17th Carolyn

24th Diana

Many thanks to all who donate flowers for worship



Conversation?

I	N	L	L	I	N	Q	U	E	S	T	Y
C	C	O	Y	E	V	R	U	S	T	C	T
C	R	R	I	D	D	L	E	A	X	O	N
O	O	I	N	T	E	R	V	I	E	W	I
N	S	N	D	L	N	Y	B	R	S	V	A
T	S	E	L	D	D	E	D	Q	S	A	T
R	E	Y	R	E	U	Q	T	U	R	U	R
O	X	L	L	U	S	D	D	N	T	B	E
V	A	D	E	B	A	T	E	L	O	S	C
E	M	E	G	N	E	L	L	A	H	C	N
R	I	I	N	Q	U	I	R	Y	X	I	U
S	N	N	U	B	R	T	B	U	O	D	Y
Y	E	T	A	G	O	R	R	E	T	N	I

INTERROGATE CROSS-EXAMINE CONTEST
 UNCERTAINTY GRILL CHALLENGE DEBATE
 CONTROVERSY CONTENTION INQUIRY DOUBT
 INTERVIEW QUERY STUDY INQUEST RIDDLE
 SURVEY

We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins
 Rev Malcolm Shapland Chris Harling
 Jane, Carolyn and families Vernon Holland
 Sally Ball and family
 Judy and Rod Jarman



St. Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland

November 30th

Andrew's home was Copernican, he was a fisherman. He was part of Jesus' inner circle. Prior to becoming a disciple of Jesus he was a disciple of John the Baptist.

It is not certain where Andrew preached, but it seems that he travelled great distances to spread the Good News.

One legend has Andrew building a church in Fife (St Andrews.) Another legend says that some of his relics were brought to Fife in the 4th century.

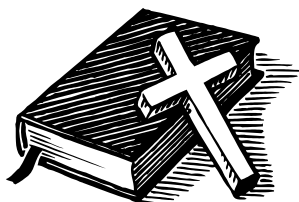
Many churches through the ages have been dedicated to St Andrew.

It is said he met his death on an X shaped cross, which became his symbol and incorporated into the Union Jack.

Lectionary Readings

November

- 3rd Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
- 10th Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,
13-17; Psalm 17:1-9; Luke 20:27-33
- 17th Isaiah 12 or 65:17-27; Psalm 98;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- 24th Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46;
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43



CHOIR / SINGING GROUP

We have been fortunate to welcome Peter Speakman into our worship in recent weeks and he and Dave Clarke have volunteered to get a choir or singing group together for the Christmas Eve service. They would love to hear from any would be choristers

(don't think perfect pitch is essential.)

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

November 2019 Report

Review.

Wednesday afternoon 25th September

'Concert and Cake' A Piano Recital by Dan Phelps.

This was a lovely concert followed by a delicious tea. It was a shame that more people did not come along and support it. Dan played pieces from his new album which well-illustrated the talent that this charming young man possesses. We wish him well with his latest release.

The VAN-guard Concert Series up to Christmas 2019.

. Sunday 8th December at 2.00 p.m. Tickets £10.00

'Cantare at Christmas'

Christmas entertainment with our good friends, David Fortey, tenor, OMA and Angharad Morgan soprano, Welsh National Opera Chorus with their outstanding accompanist Ryan Wood. They bring much laughter and joy to start the Christmas season of music here. It's always good fun to wonder what shoes Ryan will be wearing! It wouldn't be Christmas at VAN-guard without them.



Friday 20th December at 1.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00

The First Christmas Concert of 'Caerphilly Winds and Strings'.

This new music group gave a superb concert here last summer, their first public performance. A delighted audience was treated to some excellent playing. Since then some more musicians have joined the group, so we eagerly await their first Christmas Concert with even more players in the ensemble. Led by Mr. Nigel Jones, there is bound to be a delightful selection of Christmas music for all to enjoy.

Also

Friday 13th December at 7.00 p.m.

The Caerphilly Community Chorus Christmas Concert

This will be the Chorus' first concert with their new Musical Director, Mr. Tomos Gwyn.



HARVEST

Many thanks for all the donations to the Food Bank. It weighed in at 141kg.

The 7th VAN-guard Centre ARTS, CRAFTS ANDS LITERARY EXHIBITION

12th – 22nd NOVEMBER

Leaflets are available for those who wish to enter work for the exhibition. Please pass this information on to anyone, **of any age**, that might be interesting in displaying some of their work whether it is art work, craft work or creative writing. We enjoy the community atmosphere when artists from across this area and beyond participate in our exhibition. We would be grateful if any of the church folk would come along to help meet and greet and serve refreshments. A Rota to sign will be available soon.

There will be an opportunity to vote for your favourite item. The art award will be chosen by Dr. Hefin David A.M. while the literary award will be adjudicated by Mrs. Jackie Askey, Chair of the VAN-guard Centre Management Committee.

The opening times will be as in previous years

**Weekdays 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. and
Sunday 12 noon- 4.00p.m.**

On the closing afternoon at 2.00 p.m. the Spoken Word Session will take place and afterwards the awards will be presented.

For any other information please ask Mair or John and also to receive a leaflet with the relevant exhibition information.

Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

November

3rd Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth.
Staff in the Synod office.

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

10th St David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, staff of
Cytun, Moderator, staff and churches of the
Northern Synod.

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo,
Rwanda

17th Castle Square URC, Treforest, staff of
Christian Aid Wales, Moderator, staff and
churches of North Western Synod.

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and
Principe

24th Van Road URC, Caerffili, our ecumenical
partners in Wales, the Moderator, staff and
churches of the Mersey Synod

Cameroon, Central African Republic,
Equatorial Guinea



Moira Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields



CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn	02920 866840
Mr Lewis Lewis-Head	02920 889958
Mrs Emma Fitzgerald	02920 821525
Ms Lynda Jones	02920 884022
Mrs Diane Moverley	02920 866336
Mr Robert Moverley	02920 866336
Mrs Cathy Vernalls	02920 887112

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)



**May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace as you trust in him, so
that you may overflow with hope by
the power of His Holy Spirit.**

Romans 15:13