

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
February 2020

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Secretary

Mrs Margaret Craig

Tel: 02920 867487

E-mail: Margaret_craig@hotmail.co.uk

Church Treasurer

Mr Rob Moverley

Tel: 02920 866336

E-mail: robmoverley60@gmail.com

Pulpit Secretary

Ms Lynda Jones

Tel: 02920 884022

E-mail: Lynda.jones58@gmail.com

Website:

www.vanroadurc.org

An Elder writes ...

At the autumn Synod meeting, we were advised that the Synod's Mission and Discipleship Board would be focussing on Climate Change during 2020, and local churches were encouraged to check out what it means to become an Eco Church. Our friends at Hope and Market Square in Merthyr Tydfil have already received a bronze award under the Eco Church scheme. Is this something we would wish to consider at Van Rd?

What's involved? I hear you ask.

Details of the Eco Church scheme can be found online at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/> and below is an extract from the website.

Churches complete the unique online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God's earth in different areas of their life and work. The answers a church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!

If your score doesn't gain you an Eco Church Award straight away don't worry – the idea is to complete further actions in order to gain the points necessary for an Award. For example, you can switch to a green energy company or start using Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies to gain Eco Church Award points.

The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

It takes into account whether your church has buildings or land, and you can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.

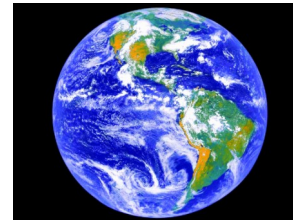
There are three levels of Eco Church Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. In order to qualify for an Award you must attain the required standard in each of the areas covered by the Eco Survey that apply to your church (some churches do not have buildings or land). You can see when you have gained sufficient points in each Eco Survey category by looking at the coloured lines that appear on screen with the Eco Survey questions..

Once all the categories on your Eco Survey indicate that you have enough points for an Award, you will be asked whether you want to apply for an award. For Bronze and Silver Awards we will require confirmation from your church leader that they have seen and approved the Eco Survey responses provided on behalf of your church. This will be done electronically, within the survey app. Additionally, for Gold Awards we will arrange for an Eco Church Assessor to visit your church to see and hear for themselves of all that you've been doing to care for God's earth across the areas covered by the Eco Survey.

Once your Award is confirmed, you will receive a certificate and (optional) plaque from A Rocha UK to mark your achievement.

That's what it's all about. Perhaps we could consider at church meeting whether we want to explore this scheme further and see how we can respond to the concerns of the world about climate change.

Rob Moverley



From the editor

There is a Saw Doctors song entitled, 'When Will It Ever Stop Raining?'

Over recent months it seems like we have hardly had a day without rain; I was wondering where those cold, crisp winter days had disappeared to.



Going for walks, (when able to avoid the rain,) I have still been struck by the beauty of nature, particularly the trees. In recent weeks we have walked at Montacute House, Tyntesfield and along the Taff Trail from Tongwynlais and have been in awe of the wonderful shapes of the trees standing starkly bare; many may be hundreds of years old. The textures, gnarled branches intertwined and jutting out at all angles to make beautiful, unique sculptures. Even without their leaves, trees are magnificent. If left, they endure allowing generation after generation to appreciate them as well as playing their vital role in supporting wildlife and trapping carbon dioxide.

W.H. Davis writes:

- 'What is this world if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?'

I feel in touch a little with those people in the past who will have stopped to appreciate something in nature and particularly trees; able to appreciate in passing moments the wonder of God's creation. We pray that, like trees, we may play a vital role but showing our potential beauty through our care and actions in our every day lives.

Diane

The Future Appointment of Serving Elders

At the last Church Meeting, eldership was discussed and the Elders asked to find a way forward with regards to re-election of Elders and bring a suggested proposal to the next Church Meeting to be discussed.

Looking again at the terms of office we realised that under the current Rules (each elder serving for a maximum of 6 years then at least a year off,) that 2 Elders should have stepped down in 2018 and 2 are due to step down in 2020. We feel that it might be too big a task to elect 4 new Elders this year so propose that just 2 possibly step down this year and 2 next year.

As the membership numbers decline we feel there might not be many names coming forward for nomination, hence we are looking to the possibility of Elders extending their term of office. We are concerned, however, that this should be given careful thought and should not just be an Elder nominating his/herself to carry on, or a quick 'hands up if you wish 'so and so' to continue.' We believe it should still have due process.

So, the eldership propose the following alternative to the way that elders' term of service may be extended.

1. Elders initially serve for a period of 3 years, with the option of automatically extending the period of service for a further 3 years.
After 6 years continuous service, and every 3 years thereafter, if re-elected, a serving elder must offer themselves for re-nomination as part of the normal process of electing elders.
3. Nomination forms for Eldership given to every member. If they wish to nominate a current member who is due to step down, they may do so (providing they have got permission from that Elder.)
4. As usual, for a name to go on the ballot paper, the person has to have 4 nominations.
5. The ballot of members takes place providing there are more nominations than Eldership places available.

Eldership

This year two elders are due to step down from being serving elders. This may provide an opportunity for non serving elders to resume active eldership. Once an elder in the U.R.C. you remain an elder for life. Alternatively there may be a member you would like to nominate for this role.

Elders must be committed to the role, prepared to give time to the church and any people with needs. An elder may have to prayerfully, make decisions regarding the management of the church, both the building, its functions, and the users of the building. It can be hard work, but it is Gods' work, our God whom it is an honour to serve.

Margaret Craig

A Big Thank You

A big well deserved thank you to the members who decorated the church so beautifully for the Christmas season. The tree, the window ledges, and the Nativity scenes helped to create a warm welcoming atmosphere.

A special thank you to Elaine Davies, not a member, but every year she provides us with a lovely Advent wreath.

Peter and the singing group have enhanced worship with lovely anthems, much appreciated by the congregation. Many thanks to all of you.

Thanks and appreciation to Van-guard for the purchase of a floor polisher. and particularly a big thank you to John who single handedly, has used it to make the floors look stunning. We must ensure we look after it.

Margaret Craig

PULPIT SUPPLY

February

2nd, 10.30a.m.	Mr Lewis Lewis-Head Communion
9th, 10.30a.m.	Mr David Salisbury
16th, 10.30 a.m.	Richard and Sarah Edwards
23rd, 10.30am	Hymns and Readings followed by Church Meeting

Mid-week Communion

Wednesday 12th

10.30a.m.

Rev. Malcolm Shapland



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Wed 5th, 10.30am **Coffee with Enfys**
Thurs 6th, 10.30am **Fellowship and Bible Study**
Tues 11th, 6pm **Elders' Meeting**
Thurs 20th, 10.30am **Fellowship and Bible Study**
Sun 23rd, after service, **Church Meeting**
Fri 28th, **Wellbeing Course begins**
Sat 29th, **Concert**

Looking Ahead

March 8th **Fellowship Lunch after service**
 with Mr Trevor Grant
 of The Leprosy Mission



Rotas for February

Stewards
Dorothy Woodward
Enfys Hawthorn
Communion
Lynda Jones
Margaret Craig

Rotas for March

Stewards
Margaret Baldwin
Phyllis Frayling
Communion
Cathy Vernalls
Emma Fitzgerald

If unable to steward or serve

Please ask ANOTHER to cover

FLOWERS

February
2nd Chris Harling
9th Rob and Diane
16th
23rd

Many thanks to all who donate flowers for worship



IMPROBABLE

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

UNSUBSTANTIAL UNIMAGINABLE ABSURD

UNEXPECTED DUBIOUS DOUBTFUL

IDEALISTIC IMPROBABLE DEBATABLE

CHANCY FAR-FETCHED SUSPECT

UNLIKELY REMOTE SLIGHT RARE

We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland Chris Harling

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Sally Ball and family

Judy and Rod Jarman



Lectionary Readings



February

2nd Psalm 15; Micah 6:1-8; 1
Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

9th Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

16th Deuteronomy 20:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

23rd Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

26th **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Isaiah 58:1-12; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;
Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

St Dwynwen's Day-25th January

The Welsh Patron Saint of Lovers

Dwynwen was a princess who lived in the 4th or 5th century, in the Breconshire area. She fell in love with Maelon Dafodrill but her father, King Brychan Brycheiniog, who had 24 daughters, said she should marry another.

The legend says that she prayed to God that she might forget Maelon and she was visited by an angel who gave her a potion which turned Maelon into an ice statue.

She was given 3 wishes, she chose -

- 1) that Maelon be thawed,
- 2) that God would meet the hopes and dreams of all lovers
- 3) that she would never marry.

Giving thanks to God she devoted her life to His service.

She established a convent on Llanddwyn Island off the coast of Anglesea, which can only be reached at very low tide..

There is a well that is said to be home to sacred fish who if seen, can predict the success of a couple's relationship.

If the small wishing well nearby (Crochen Llanddwyn) bubbles it means you will have good luck.

P.S. She is also the patron saint of sick animals.



The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

February 2020 Report

Belated Happy New Year from the VAN-guard Centre Committee and groups.

Review.

All groups are back and meeting in their regular slots.

Most groups have increased in number which is very pleasing. Goldies Cymru and the University of the Third Age fill the room with participants. The 'Caerphilly Winds and Strings' have recruited more musicians, which will take them to 19 or 20 players. What is more they have already booked their concerts for July and December.

VAN-guard Concert Series 2019.

The year ended with three excellent concerts, which appealed to different audiences as well as our regular supporters. David and Angharad have their usual loyal audience members, as do the Caerphilly Community Chorus, and now the 'Caerphilly Winds and Strings'. This New Year looks to be equally busy.

VAN-guard Concert Series 2020

The programme for this year is looking healthy with 9 concerts booked to date. The programme for the year is one of varied music content, both vocal and instrumental.

We had a break in January but will commence at the end of this month on Leap Year Day.



Saturday 29th February Leap Year Day-evening performance.

Mr. William Stevens, Musical Director of the Serenata Singers, is planning a concert for 4 voices. More details will be available nearer the date e.g. time, ticket price etc.

Saturday 14th March the Serenata Singers – evening performance

Details will follow next month. This group, members of which come mainly from Cardiff, love coming here to perform. Some of their choristers regularly attend VAN-guard concerts. Through them we have met a number of other performers who first came here as Serenata's Musical Directors, but who are solo performers in their own right, e.g. Conal Bembridge- Sayers, Matthew Clark and now William Stevens.

Other concert requests continue to be received and we will do our best to accommodate them.



Fridays 28th February – 3rd April 10.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

6 week Well Being Course-for sufferers of Chronic Pain.

This course is sponsored by the NHS and GAVO, (Gwent Associations of Voluntary Organisations), of which VAN-guard is a member. Anyone wishing for more details can contact me because there is an application form to be completed for the course. This is a free course. Another Well Being Course, one on a different topic, will be held in June and July, but on Tuesdays.

Floor in the worship area

The floor has been polished by John. It took him a week to complete because it is a big area and the all chairs had to be moved three times. VAN-guard has purchased the polisher and paid for half the cost of the polish. It took 4 gallons of polish to complete the task.

Request to all users of the space. 'Cannot lift do not shift'.

Please pick up a chair do not drag it. If you cannot pick it up then please ask someone who can to help you.

Thank you.

Congratulations.

Jenny John, our Drawing Tutor, has become a grandmother for the first time. Finn was born to her daughter Eleanor on 13th January. As a result she delayed the return of her class until 29th January in order to give her daughter some support. We send our congratulations to all the family.

Also

We were delighted to hear of the appointment of Mr. Tim Rhys-Evans as the Musical Director of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Tim has been here occasionally with 'Only Boys Aloud.' He will be leaving the Aloud Charity to take up his new role. We extend our best wishes to him as he takes up his new post.

Special Announcement For History lovers:

For many years we have attended the Annual Conferences of the Gelligaer History Society at Llancaiach Fawr Manor. In the early days of the restoration work we used to take the display boards along to show attendees the work that was

carried out here. There was always great interest in what was taking place at Van Road.

This year their annual conference will take place on Saturday 21st March at Llancaiach Fawr Manor from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. There is an interesting programme of guest speakers and topics. Details of the day are to be found in the VAN-guard Notice Board downstairs. Alternatively you can always ask Enfys and Lynda about it too, as they are members of the society, and will be able to pass on details for application. We are delighted to support their conferences in thanks for the publicity the group gives to our

VAN-guard Centre activities.

Mair

YOUNG WIVES

From 7.30pm

February

3rd Mr Martin Holdsworth – Quiz

10th Mr Alan Thorne

17th HALF TERM

24th Mr Bruce O'Callaghan - Domestic Pests



Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

February

2nd Salisbury Park URC, Weexham, Christ Church, Milford Haven, General Secretariat and staff at Church House in London

Ireland and UK: Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

9th St John's URC, Buckley, Mount Zion URC/ Congregational Federation, Haverfordwest, Moderators of General Assembly

Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

16th Mold URC/ Presbyterian Church of Wales, Keyston URC

Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain

23rd Parkfields Community Centre, Mold, Nolton Haven URC

Germany and France



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)



The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.