

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
April 2020

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An Elder writes ...

We live in a very strange passage of history. It is not long ago that Brexit dedicated our days, will we leave Europe or not? This was followed up with the awful rain we received, meaning lots of difficult times for many. COVID-19, to give its proper title, is the big one.

You don't need to be given another lecture about how dangerous this virus is, we should all start to realise or know that we have a responsibility to change our daily lives. It is vital that, as older people, we listen to what we are being told, to protect ourselves. It is vital, as younger people, we also listen to what we are being told, so we don't become carriers and endanger others.

As followers of Christ we are have lost a lot, we are not able to openly practice our faith as normal. Van Road Church for us is our sanctuary, this is God's home, a place were we can gather together to share and worship God in his presence. I hear so much about what Churches are doing to reach out via worship, on the internet for example. As a church we also have to review how we too can reach out, as elders this is where we are called upon to answer your call, and we await your call to do what we can do for you, the congregation.

Can we take answers from the Bible to take us through this challenging time? Yes, of course, because the Bible and Jesus's teachings does contain the answer to life, the map of life has been written for us.

What would Jesus do in this time? Is this the right question to ask? Jesus did not really have to isolate himself. What about St Paul? Now there's a man who could answer this question. Maybe he did not self-isolate, but he was forced into isolation from the fear of Rome about his teachings of Jesus Christ and the way to live.

Paul firmly believed that, "I am in chains for Christ", he knew that his imprisonment was God's will but instead of giving in to the

situation he saw his opportunity to practice his faith and evangelise from his cell. A new way to become stronger in faith and stronger to spread the word of God.

This virus, I believe, is not a punishment from God. I don't think that this is how we are being taught a lesson and that God wants us to stay at home. Paul's situation is not similar, however we are going to suffer, be it ill health, lack of personal contact, losing income from work, the list goes on. We do have to seek the positives.

Yes, there are positives to this situation! These times need us, as Christians, to be positive. We are God's light in the world, and we should reflect this.

Talk about bad timing! Why couldn't this happen later in the year? Easter is a most important time for us, how are going to live our holy week? One like no other before. Well, this is our opportunity, from our cells of isolation, to come to the world afresh. How can we get the word of God out there when we are stuck in?

The opportunity has been given to us through a world which is suffering. Easter is the greatest time in history ever, it's needs to be celebrated and needs to be heard. Use this time, where we are not together, to go back to those teachings of Christ and Paul and rediscover, reimagine and listen to God's truth in their words.

How can we cater to you & how can we use this time of unknown to deliver this message of love, hope & forgiveness? We all must listen to the voice of God but, as Elders, we also are listening to you.

Our prayers are for each other, our prayers are for the world. Keep safe and God goes wherever you are, trust in him. Let our ministry go on, even if we are not able to leave our homes.

Lewis

From the Editor

When Rob and I left for holiday on March 5th little did we realise just how life would be so different on our return. Although we were kept up to date about the Covid 19 virus, and were regularly given hand sanitiser while we were travelling, we were not under any restriction of movement. There was no delay to our return home but the airports were spookily quiet and sparsely populated.

We had looked forward to seeing the family on our return but have only done so by the use of 'Facetime.' We are very conscious of hand washing and sanitising and keeping our distance.

Adversity often brings out kindness in people. We have become aware that there have been offers of help and support from neighbours to those living nearby. Indeed, our family and next door neighbour were kind enough to do some shopping for us for the day we returned.

It is a challenging time for all and looking at the havoc the virus has caused in such places not so far away, in Italy, France and Spain, we can only wonder at what might be ahead.

Not only are we particularly concerned for those that are vulnerable, we are also concerned for businesses and livelihoods, jobs, everything so uncertain and no end in sight.

However, we continue in as positive a way as possible.

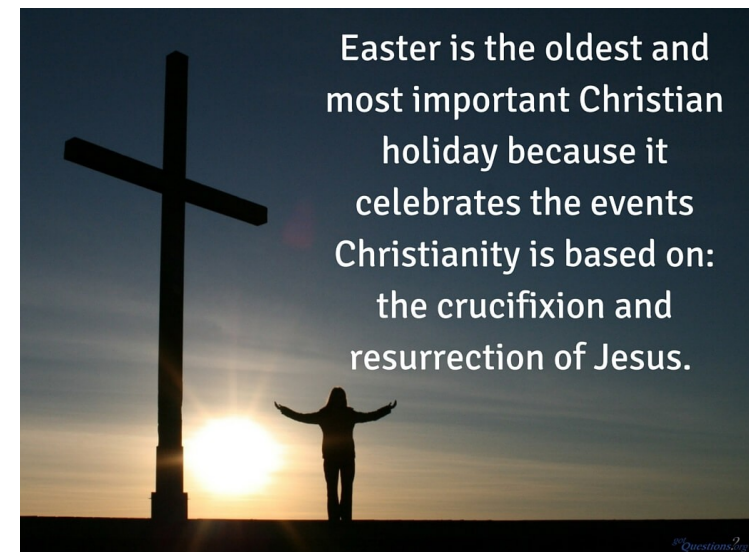
We look forward to the message of Easter, a very different Eastertime than we have ever experienced before.

Now, more than ever, we need to focus our attention on the message of hope that Christ's resurrection brings, asking for strength and guidance in such challenging times. We need to look for beauty in nature and in the people around us, sharing the Easter joyous message wherever we can, in whatever way we can.

May we be filled with love and hope this Eastertime.

Every blessing,

Diane.



Easter is the oldest and most important Christian holiday because it celebrates the events Christianity is based on: the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

WORSHIP

Regrettably, no services until further notice.

Alternative church worship can be found at -

daily devotions@urc.org.uk



We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland Chris Harling

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Sally Ball

Judy and Rod Jarman

All affected in any way by Coronavirus

All those working in the NHS and in

Social Care



Lectionary Readings



April

HOLY WEEK

- 5th Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
- 6th Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11;
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11
- 7th Psalm 71:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
- 8th Psalm 70; Isaiah 50:4-9a;
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
- 9th Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 12:1-14;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- 10th Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12;
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
- 11th Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; Job 14:1-14;
1 Peter 4:1-8; John 19:38-42
- 12th EASTER! Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:1-18
- 19th Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32;
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
- 26th Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

EASTER

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

HE IS RISEN	REJOICE	SAVIOUR	JESUS
CROSS	MARY	TOMB	REDEMPTION
EASTER	ALLELUIA	GARDEN	HOPE
GLORY	BELIEVE	HOSANNA	VICTORY
MAJESTY	JOY	PRAISE	PEACE

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

Review of March events:

Saturday 29th February at 1.00 p.m. Opera at Lunch
Arias and Duets

Soloists: Joelene Griffith, soprano and William Stevens, bass, sang a selection of music including works by Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Wagner.

This was a splendid performance by two extremely talented performers. Everyone who attended was in admiration of the two soloists. Such quality of music has become a regular example of the provision of music excellence for which VAN-guard has become known.

Saturday 14th March at 7.30 p.m.

The Serenata Singers conducted by William Stevens presented:

EXSULTATE!

Mozart EXSULTATE, jubilate Soloist: Verity-Belle Atkinson, soprano.

Mozart Mass in C major 'Coronation' K317 Soloists: Grace Curtis, soprano, Rachel Gray, mezzo-soprano, Thomas Mottershead, tenor and Robert Marson, bass.

Other music on the evening included works by Haydn, Faure and Brahms.



This was the last event at VAN-guard and we certainly finished on a high. The quality of singing from the Serenata Singers was at a much higher level thanks to the hard work of both musical director and the singers. They were accompanied by an orchestra of young musicians drawn mainly from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The five soloists were all professional performers, as was the organist, who is currently the deputy organist at Llandaff Cathedral. When all were performing together the sound in the church was amazing because of the standard of performance, and the excellent acoustics in the church building. The organ sounded wonderful. The only disappointment was the rather small audience. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, Mr. Jeff Cuthbert, as usual supported us. He said that amazing events happen at VAN-guard and the quality of music we bring to the town is very gratifying.

Special Event.

The A level pupils' event at lunchtime on 12th March was a lovely time for all. The three sixth formers, all young ladies, sang very well, and I understand they were able to take their practical examinations on 20th March before the schools were closed. The teachers loved the venue and David Fortey was very pleased with the café style set up for the pupils' performance experience as well as the number of people that came along. A small raffle and refreshments' donations raised £92 for music education at Aberdare Comprehensive Community School. This could well become a regular feature as there are quite a good number of pupils at the school currently studying for music examinations.

It is sad that at this point I confirm that all activities and events at VAN-guard are cancelled for the foreseeable future. However, we will resume all our activities whenever possible.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us to date. Take care and keep safe.

Mair.



A BIG THANKYOU TO...

The Brownies for their donation of £150 to the church

It is much appreciated!

WEEKLY OFFERING

Even though we are not attending church services at the moment, please remember that the church still needs your usual donations. Perhaps each Sunday you could place your money in an envelope and say a quite offertory prayer. Rob will happily receive a bundle of envelopes when we get back to normal.

Thank you!

How does
Easter end?
With an R.



What kind of
books do
bunnies read?
Ones with
a hoppy ending.



What did the
mommy egg
say to the
baby egg?
Your egg-stra
special



What stories
does the
easter bunny
like to read?
Ones with happy
endings.



How does
the Easter
Bunny
stay fit?
Egg-ercise



Why did the
easter egg
hide?
He was a
little chicken.



What happened
to the egg
when he
laughed? He
cracked up.



What
music
do Bunnies
listen to?
Hip-hop



Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

April

5th

Hebron URC, Mostyn and Templeton URC,
Narbeth

East Timor, Indonesia and Philippines

12th

Rivertown URC, Shotton, Tabernacle URC,
Pembroke

19th

Japan, North Korea, South Korea and
St John's Methodist / URC, Tenby

Djibouti, Somalia and Somaliland

26th

Tabernacle URC, Llanvaches, St David's
Presbyterian Church of Wales /URC,
Aberystwyth

Eritrea and Ethiopia



CHURCH ELDERS

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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)



He Is Risen!