

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
May 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

From our Interim Moderator

In one of his hymns,(Rejoice & Sing 95) Timothy Rees writes ...

‘When human hearts are breaking
under sorrows iron rod
That same sorrow, that same aching,
wrings with pain the heart of God’

A wonderful expression of the love of God.

God enters our life situations, happy and sad, good or bad, and feels what we do. Jesus showed the nature of God. He became like us, to show that nature of God . Not the God who sits on top of the mountain and makes us dance to his tune, but the God who is with us here and now, feeling the pain and ache that we do.

This must say something to our Coronavirus situation.
God feels our pain ? God's heart aches for us ?
Can the love of God be seen, not in the disease, but in the healing?

Healing is not always a cure, but a drawing into a loving embrace by God, that says, ‘You are my child, I love you.’
Healing from the fear that frightens us.

We have to beware of making glib statements to people who are wrung with pain, but there is a legitimate sharing of our beliefs in the resurrection and life now, that God promises. God is with us. This time will pass, life will continue.
God is love ,Eternal Love.

Peace be with us.

Malcolm

An Elder writes

I am writing this letter having just come in from my daily walk from the house, past the Watford chapel to the snack bar crossroads. I meet very few people on the way but we all take care to move away from each other with a smile and a wave.

I count my blessings as I walk, the first being that I can climb to the top without stopping with enough breath to walk briskly home to the tune " I have seen the golden sunshine ". I was able to do this after the first week of lockdown - lack of pollution ?? Martin's Farm traffic lights and the lights of Hendredenny sparkle as if they've been through a car wash.

Two thoughts I find helpful at this time that I'd like to share with you, the first was from my father,

" . Paid mynd o flaen gofyd " .

Don't go ahead of your worries.

the second from my father in law

"Strength for today is all that you need there never will be a tomorrow,
for tomorrow will be another today with its measure of joy and sorrow."

I think of these as I go about my changed temporary life and put my faith in God.

I am enjoying the fact that I don't need a watch, I don't need to be anywhere and can read as long as I like. People will say I am lucky and I know that I am. I can enjoy a walk, look at the changing countryside, watch birds continuing to nest, trees beginning to bud and lambs prancing in the fields, life goes on unchanged in so many ways and there is a comfort in that.

Not being able to do anything to help during this time is difficult for us oldies confined to the house. As a church we have always been there for each other, looking out for those in need. It has been hard to accept that we cannot be part of the wonderful army of volunteers doing so much for our communities, but we can work in other ways.

I can phone lonely vulnerable friends, having a chat, reminiscing and sharing worries, I can join in the N.H.S. and frontline workers Thursday night clap showing our appreciation for the brave souls who take such risks on our behalf, I can obey the rules and keep myself well for the sake of others and last but definitely not least I can access Malcolm's daily prayers, praying for people in all situations and difficulties, the forgotten and bereft; to pray for these is a stark reminder of how lucky we are.

By the time you read this I hope that the outlook will be better and we can see a light at the end of the tunnel; and pray for a better, kinder, fairer world when this is all over

God bless,

Enfys



Lectionary Readings for May

- 3rd** Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter, 2:16-25; John 10:1-10
- 10th** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- 17th** Psalm 66:8-20; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 24th** Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53 (Ascension Day)
- 31st** Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11



From the editor.....

Many thanks for all the contributors to May's Inform. It would have been an exceedingly slim edition without you.

It is heartening to hear how people are responding to these challenging times and to see just how appreciative the public are towards those on the front line.

It is sometimes easy to forget, but people do really care.

Diane

WORSHIP

Regrettably, no services until further notice.

Alternative church worship can be found at -

daily devotions@urc.org.uk

**Hopefully we might be able to be back in church
before the end of May. We will be in touch when we
have any news.**



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

Those who have died and their loved ones.

Shop workers, delivery people, post people, milk people,

**Neighbourhood volunteers, researchers and makers of
testing kits and PPE**

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur

With a nod to Dr. Seuss (*Submitted by Peter Speakman*)

Twass late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.
"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed. The virus still
menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.
"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.
And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise.
It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."
Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.

**Written in 1869 after a plague devastated Ireland in the
late 1860s**

Something Lovely

**And people stayed home and read books
and listened and rested and exercised,
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being**

**And were still and listened more deeply,
someone meditated, someone prayed,
someone danced, someone met their own shadow
and people started thinking differently...**

**And people healed and in the absence of people who
lived in ignorant ways, dangerous, mindless and
heartless...**

The earth began to heal...

**And when the danger ended and people found
themselves...**

**They grieved for the dead and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways to live,**

**And heal the earth fully
just as they had been healed.**

Kathleen O'Meara

(Thanks to SPI for contributing this)

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!

LET US PRAY

Praying for our nation, our leaders, our people.

God's people, all around the world must turn our hearts to Him.. .

... that He will heal our land and our world, both physically and spiritually. Praying that we will honour Him with our words, our deeds and our lives and that through this virus crisis, others will come to know Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

AMEN

(submitted by Carolyn)



A Reflection by Peter Speakman

As I write, we are in Holy Week but not in church. It is a time of mass bereavements, lost jobs, shattered businesses. A time of trial. A time of sorrow. A time when lockdown means isolation for many. Yet, it is possible to suffer isolation even when others are close by.

After His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was rapidly encircled by a hostile group of religious leaders and with extensive teaching (see Matthew 21:23 through to 23:39) he denounced those who embraced laws and rituals which were the opposite of what God wanted. His was an isolated voice because, however impressed were the onlookers by His bold teaching, none was brave enough to support Him and incur the wrath of scribes and Pharisees.

With death looming, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the garden. While He prayed, they fell asleep and He was left in isolation to contemplate the impending agony.

Enter Judas and with him the sense of isolation when betrayed by one He had loved. From there, Jesus was led to the mockery of a trial. Only Peter ventured close but in the chief priest's courtyard Peter's courage deserted him and the isolated Jesus faced a mockery of a trial. A miscarriage of justice took Him to the cross and Mark (Chapter 15) emphasises the abuse hurled at Jesus. How He must have felt isolation from any form of human decency.

But then agony is followed by the glorious resurrection. Jesus triumphs over the worst evils of the world. The light shines in the darkness and is never to be switched off.

We are living through a terrible pandemic and the world feels pain. However, time and time again Jesus will lead us through perils and resurrect our lives when we call upon Him.

ALL ABOUT CARE

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

PHYSIO	OPTOMETRIST	GYNECOLOGIST
CARDIOLOGIST	DOCTOR	CARE WOKER
NURSE	DENTIST	HOSPITAL CLINIC
SURGEON	GP	MIDWIFE ONCOLOGIST
HEALTH	MEDICS	REHAB NHS (X 9)

Young Wives

We would like to wish all our ladies in Young Wives a special blessing during these extraordinary times. Many of us who were war babies would remember being carried down the Anderson shelters in gardens but now we are being told to stay indoors. The enemy is out there around every corner, every shop. Please **STAY HOME** and **STAY SAFE...** the only way to protect yourselves.

God Bless!

Carol and Carolyn

Report from the VAN-guard Centre

(Charity Registration number 1109193)

Although there is nothing to report concerning activities it does not mean that there has been no contact from members of groups and people who attend events. When John sent out the list of cancellations, we received lovely messages from people who said they were looking forward to the time when we could start up again, as well as good wishes from performers whose events had been postponed. There have also been e mails and telephone calls from folk just asking how we are. The community which VAN-guard serves has shown its support at this difficult time.

Mair

© 2009 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

© Randy Glasbergen
www.glasbergen.com



**"Yes, the disciples followed Jesus...
but not on Twitter."**

FAVOURITE THINGS

A kiss of the sun for pardon

The song of the bird for mirth

One's nearer God's heart in the garden

Than anywhere else on earth.

This poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney is a favourite of John and is on a plaque hanging on our garage wall.

SPRINGTIME IN OUR GARDEN.

We are very fortunate to have fields behind our house which, via the lane, lead down to the river. As a result, we see a great variety of wildlife. The many birds that come to the garden have been our 'dependents' for years. On an average week we will see robins, sparrows and blackbirds, but also very beautifully coloured birds e.g. gold and green finches; blue tits, coal tits and great tits; nuthatches; chaffinches and the occasional gorgeous bullfinch; the splendid great spotted woodpecker is a delight to watch. They are very wary and will hide in the lane trees before flying into the garden. They play hide and seek behind tree trunks waiting for the right time to come and feed.

Larger birds include jackdaws, magpies collared doves and wood pigeons. On rare occasions we see a jay fly over the garden. We enjoy watching all these birds on the feeders and much time can be spent gazing through the kitchen window.

Other visitors are not so small but greatly amusing-the squirrels. They come for the peanuts in the bird feeders. They may only be of the grey variety, but they do have some red on their backs and tails as well as cream fur down their chest and bodies. They jump through the trees behind our garden and from the trees onto the garden fence and into the garden. They sometimes come singularly, but quite often in twos and threes. They chase each around the garden pond and borders and perform some great acrobatics on the bird feeders. They do not mind feeding the same time as the smaller birds but are very wary of the larger ones. They are very amusing, and we love watching them.

We feel privileged to see so much of God's creation in these beautifully coloured creatures and to appreciate the wildlife on our doorstep.

Mair.



Together In Prayer



Please pray for ...

May

3rd

Cefnybedd Cilmerly URC

Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda

10th

Crane Street URC/Baptist, Pontypool

Kenya and Tanzania

17th

Stow Park URC/Presbyterian Church of Wales, Newport and Trinity URC/Presbyterian Church of Wales, Llanidloes

Malawi and Zambia

24th

Dan-y-Graig United Church, Newport and Tabernacle URC, Rhayader, Simon Walkling and officers serving the National Synod of Wales

Botswana and Zimbabwe

31st

Bailey Street URC, Brynmawr and Tabernacle URC, Rhayadar

Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland

CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn	02920 866840
Mr Lewis Lewis-Head	02920 889958
Mrs Emma Fitzgerald	02920 821525
Ms Lynda Jones	02920 884022
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 Restores My Soul.