

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
June 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

I have had, £1.80p in my pocket since lock down. I have to stay in, because I am in the shielded group, so although I buy with my debit card, I have this money burning a hole in my pocket.

The week before lock down, I had my car serviced and MOTd, it's taxed and insured, and its just sitting there laughing at me. The battery is flat, it's automatic so it won't bump start, if I jump lead start it, I am not allowed to take it out for a charge up, so I have money to spend, and can't, and a car that sits there laughing at me, which I can't use, and I am shielded, so have to stay at home. I could shout, Woe is Me !

But that would be a one sided response, the money I will spend one day, the AA will come and start my car one day, my shield will be removed one day, and then I shall be back to all the normal worries I had before.

My family are looking after me. Shopping is delivered. People phone up to see I'm alright. My discomfort is nothing compared to the illness and grief of others. Instead of bleating on, I have much to be grateful for, and need to thank God and others for the good I receive, and maybe can do for others.

Pray for those who have great need of love because of their pain or grief, and do have real and serious situations to contend with and we commend them and ourselves to God. Thanking God for our carers and health workers.

Malcolm



An Elder writes

March

Every March I look out at my garden. Always I regret not putting the borders and planters to bed for the winter in a better way. I had not tidied up enough. I had not planted enough bulbs to ensure some springtime colour.

As ever I looked forward to planting healthy colourful annuals. Those hopes were dashed. Lockdown meant that garden centres would be closed. There would be a shortage, or even no summer bedding. This might be considered trivial when looking at the devastation caused by the corona virus. Still ,I was sad.

I should not have been too sad as some old friends emerged to cheer me. I said, 'Hello,' to my larkspurs, flox, honeysuckle and clematis.

Our Sunday Worship services frequently use the words

“ Our world belongs to God” It truly does.

Watching the plants which faithfully emerge year on year is a timely reminder that our faithful friend, Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, is with us always ,whatever the season or state of the world, listening and offering comfort to all.

April

Lent which continued into April seemed to finish abruptly in March. We certainly experienced a different Easter. Lockdown continued, bringing sadness to the families whose loved one had succumbed to the virus. At 5pm we watched the daily reports regarding the virus situation.



We also recognized the wonderful work of front line workers, We clapped our appreciation on Thursdays at 8pm.

Meanwhile my garden looked much better. We had managed to buy some trays of mixed geraniums. I only ever allowed pastel coloured flower in my planters, never red, yellow or orange. Now I was grateful for any colour.

I have also been grateful for Daily Devotions and the on line Sunday Service. These offerings have been a good discipline for me but of course I miss Sunday Service at Van Road and Bible Study.

May

As I write this there is speculation about life getting back to normal.

It is widely reported that lockdown has changed us. People are kinder to each other, and there is an army of volunteers delivering food and medicine to the housebound .

Some of us can do little except support each other by phone e -mail or by prayer.

The corona virus is still with us. However there have been cheering pictures of patients who have recovered, able to go home.

Outside the fields are green, we have had sunny days to cheer us.

I look at my garden, at the old faithful and the new bedding, giving me hope and pleasure.

'Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days have lain;

Love lives again that with the dead has been:

Love has come again like wheat that springeth green.'



John Campbell Crum 1928

Margaret Craig

WORSHIP

Regrettably, no services until further notice.

Alternative church worship can be found at -

dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

We will be in touch when we have any news about the possibility of returning to church.



Inform for July / August

**Please note that this will be one edition covering 2 months.
All contributions gratefully received.**

From the editor

Beyond belief?

If you had met me at the beginning of March this year and told me that from the middle of March and for many weeks after I would

- Travel through nearly deserted Madrid and Heathrow Airports
- Not be able to worship in church
- Only visit one supermarket on just one occasion
- Have my movements restricted to limited exercise, keep my distance and have to stay at home
- Spend many hours gardening and having sort outs in the house
- Visit a memorial on the mountain to a Canadian airman shot down in 1942
- Not be able to go to the theatre or art classes
- Not be able to get close to family and friends except by Facetime, Whatsapp and Zoom.
- Not be able to go to the caravan
- Hear daily how many thousands here and worldwide have been struck down by a deadly virus
- Clap at my front door once a week for all those wonderful people valiantly going about working and caring in healthcare and the community

Frankly, well, Yes, I would not have believed you!

In these mad times I would, however, believe you if you told me that God is still with us and continues to love the people of His world and will be with us always, no matter what.

God Bless!

Diane

The Memorial on the Front Cover

I have to thank Alison Jones for pointing me to the memorial at the top of Caerphilly Golf Course on the mountain. It is to remember the Canadian airman, Sergeant Ivan Raymond Trafford who crashed his plane near there in 1942. The 75th anniversary of VE Day seemed to make it even more poignant.

I have lived in Caerphilly since 1980 and until now, did not know of its existence. Shame on me!

Diane

Poetic Licence

There have been quite a number of musical and poetic responses to the pandemic on the internet such as, 'Thank you, Baked Potato' by Matt Lucas and a moving tribute, 'When Just the Tide Went Out', by Max Boyce.

Ralph Mc Tell was moved to write a new verse for his song, 'The Streets of London.'

'In shop doorways, under bridges, in all our towns and cities,

You can glimpse the makeshift bedding from the corner of your eye,

Remember what you're seeing barely hides a human being

We're all in this together, brother, sister, you and I.'

Lectionary Readings for June

- 7th** Psalm 8; Genesis 1:1-2, 4a;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 14th** Psalm 100; Exodus 19:2-8a; Romans 5:1-8;
Matthew 9:9-23
- 21st** Psalm 66:1-10, 16-17; Genesis 21:8-21;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39;
- 28th** Psalm 13; Genesis 22:1-14;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK APPEAL

Like many others, Rob and I have found it very strange not to go out collecting for Christian Aid this year. Many thanks to those who have donated already.

If you have not yet donated and wish to do so, you can either do so by going to the website or by ringing Rob and he will collect your donation or you can send it to 53, Lon-y-Gors, CF83 1DP. If you are a tax payer you could include a short signed note with your address to allow CA to claim Gift Aid.

Cheques should be made payable to Christian Aid.

AT TIMES LIKE THIS

At times like this we think of the past,
We remember holidays and special celebrations,
Spending precious time with friends and relations.
We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made
That old hurts, resentments and bitterness fade
And that good memories will last,
When we think of the past.

At times like this we think of the present.
We may be in lock down, but no need to be blue,
Don't waste the time, there are things we can do.
Getting out in the garden, giving friends a ring.
Taking up new hobbies, we can laugh we can sing.
There are N.H.S. staff and others who unselfishly,
Continue working so hard to help our society.
To them, our grateful thanks are heartfelt,
When we think of the present.

At times like this we think of the future,
Our hopes and our plans are all in God's hands.
We believe that one day this crisis will pass,
We pray that lessons we've learned will last.
That nations will live in peace, with one thing in mind,
To work together, for the good of all mankind.
Making the world a much better place,
With fairness and justice for each creed and race.
Lord, give us faith and patience to cope,
And to trust in the future with eternal hope.

By Jennifer Still (Sally Ball's sister.)

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6.

Be anxious for nothing – is this really possible? How can we be anxious for nothing at the moment? How are we able to be completely free from worry and stress when there’s so much to deal with?

However the Bible doesn’t tell us to be anxious for only the really important, big questions in our life. It tells us to be anxious for nothing!

The opposite of anxiety is faith. In faith we can go through life on earth and make all of our decisions confidently because God will guide us in every single detail. Faith is complete, blind obedience. Faith is that we do what God tells us before knowing what the result will be. Faith isn’t that we understand everything – faith is doing it anyway because we trust in God’s perfect care and guidance!

We should read God’s Word, pray to Him, and do His will even if we don’t understand every tiny detail. This is how we can seek God’s kingdom first! Do this and God will take care of us!

God knows exactly what it takes to make us happy both in this life and the next. Although we can’t immediately see why God works the way He does, we can go in faith and be obedient anyway!

We must leave all of our own concerns and anxieties behind and simply go in faith. Seek His kingdom first! As long as we are faithful to do everything God puts on our hearts, He will be faithful to take care of us, both now and in eternity. Then there really isn’t anything to be anxious about! Then we can “be anxious for nothing!”

God Bless you all,

Lynda.

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, or just one with a cheque in. Just let him know when it is convenient for him to collect or pop it in the post to him.

Thank you!

Quotation from a recent newspaper (sent by Mair)

‘Aging is a privilege that not everyone gets to experience’

Alison Steadman -actress.

Garden Birds

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

BLACKBIRD CROW BULLFINCH CHAFFINCH
 SPARROW BLUETIT WREN ROBIN THRUSH
 NUTHATCH COALTIT GOLDFINCH STARLING
 DOVE WAGTAIL PIGEON DUNNOCK

Safe Families - Supporting families in Caerphilly Can You Help?

Safe families work with Caerphilly Council to support families in the county. They have written to Margaret Craig giving some idea of how that support might work such as visits, advice or telephone calls for example. They put people in touch with those in need, crisis or isolation and the current pandemic and lockdown has made things harder.

Samantha Whittington (the HUB manager) writes -

'However we cannot do this on our own, many of you may be wondering how to respond to the current crisis, specifically how to help the vulnerable families in your area who risk being sent further into social isolation during this period. We are looking for new volunteers to help in two specific areas:

1. Volunteers who are willing to support a family virtually (Calls/Video calls)
2. Volunteers who are willing to drop basic food supplies.

If this could be you, or you think your church members could get involved, please pass the information onto your congregation. You can follow this link, fill in the details and we'll be in touch: <https://volunteer.safefamilies.uk/>

'Safe Families' give training and there is a short 3 minute video if more information is needed.

(This is a summary of a letter sent to Margaret Craig.)

Tenth Anniversary of Rededication Service 2010

Sunday 24th May marked the anniversary of the Rededication of the Worship area after its restoration. On this Sunday it was planned for us to celebrate the occasion when Malcolm would have been with us for the service.

However, as that was not possible this year we can perhaps remember the lovely celebration. The service was led by Rev. Peter Noble and assisted by Rev. Shelagh Pollard and Rev. Malcolm Shapland. It was a splendid afternoon with many dignitaries in attendance as well as many friends and clergy from other churches.

The theme of Peter's address was 'All are Welcome in this place' and we sang the lovely hymn of the same title. The War Memorials were rededicated in their new position with all of them being displayed together on one wall. This has since become the focal point for our Remembrance Day Services. The event ended with a splendid buffet provided by the Rock Café in Bedwas. The sun shone and the event was one to remember with happiness and pride that the worship area had been restored and would serve us for our worship for many years to come.

At this time when we cannot worship in church it is good to remember happy times, times of achievement, and in the knowledge that we will get back to worship there once again, when all will be welcome in there.

Mair and John Wade.

The Song of Hiawatha by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1855

A section from the poem reads:

'Then the Black-Robe chief, the Prophet,

Told his message to the people,

Told the purport of his mission,

Told them of the Virgin Mary,

And her blessed Son, the Saviour,

How in distant lands and ages

He had lived on earth as we do;

How he fasted, prayed, and laboured;

How the Jews, the tribe accursed,

Mocked him, scourged him, crucified him;

How he rose from where they laid him,

Walked again with his disciples,

And ascended into heaven.

And the chiefs made answer, saying:

"We have listened to your message,

We have heard your words of wisdom,

We will think on what you tell us.

The epic poem relates to the fictional adventures of an Ojibw warrior named Hiawatha and the tragedy of his love for Minnehaha, a Dakota woman. The setting is the southern shore of Lake Superior. It is written in trochaic tetrameter and the infectious rhythm of the poem has drawn many millions of people to read or listen to it being read.

I was first introduced to it as a child in Junior school when it was read to us and I always loved it. However, this section means far more now than it did when first heard as a child.

Mair

We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins
Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Dorothy Woodward 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, transport workers,

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



Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

June

7th

Penuel URC

Angola and Mozambique

14th

New Street Presbyterian / URC, Welshpool

Brazil

21st

St Mellons Local Ecumenical Partnership,
Cardiff, Sarnau URC

Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

28th

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

Bolivia, Chile and Peru



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)



**I will lift my eyes to the hills, from
whence comes my help?**

My help comes from the Lord.

Psalm 121