

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
July/August 2020

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From our Interim Moderator

Online worship, virtual visiting, telephone contact, new ways of being church. Do we like it, and will it form a pattern for the future? Can we go back to where we left off, or have things changed so much that we may have to look at different ways of worship, an altered pattern of pastoral care, a new system of keeping in contact?

From my point of view as a minister, and some of my colleagues will have a different point of view, two of the most basic parts of ministry have been preaching and pastoral care. I have never been any use at computers with a life and mind of their own. Things appear and disappear at the touch of a button, but I don't know which button,

Whether Pulpit or Pew, I like face to face contact. Without the personal contact life is less! We need to see and talk to one another.

Things may have to change, but I can't see how we can be church without person to person concern and love. Patterns of worship may change, but worship will continue, may be 2 metres apart, but still together. We may not be able to visit each other as before, but pastoral care must continue. Social and interest groups must continue to provide company and companionship for us.

The People of God, need God, and each other, so however much things alter, worship and fellowship must remain at the heart of what we do, and what we are. God is already where we will be next, so take heart.

Malcolm



An Elder writes

We are living in a different way and unable to worship together in church. I am grateful for the online service every week which I follow, even singing the hymns.

I hope you are all well and enjoying yourselves as much as you can. This has been a very different time. We had a socially distanced street party on V E Day and sang, "We'll meet again," with Vera Lynn at 9pm.

I felt very sad that the war veterans, who had been looking forward to celebrating 75 years of peace, had to have the celebrations toned down; they could not join together to reminisce with each other. It looks as though the same restrictions will apply for V J Day in July.

I thought the Queen's Official Birthday was well done earlier in June and the Queen seemed so happy in Windsor.

I am, like so many of you, enjoying Malcolm's daily prayers. His prayers have been inspirational and have been so current each day.

When we first went in to lockdown I did not think we would still be without an end in sight. At least the technology we have has enabled us to keep in touch. I have continued weekly Zoom Slimming World classes so I have not gained more than a couple of pounds. It has also enabled me to see my slimming world friends each week.

I have had a few virtual coffee mornings with my friends from college including Dawn who lives in New Zealand and they have had such a different experience there.

Hopefully we will be able to come together in the not so distant future, although things will be different, we can celebrate together.

Please stay safe and well.

God bless,

Cathy x



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.



From the editor

Like me, have you found inspiration and solace in the weekly URC Worship ?

The services provide a range of eloquent speakers, each one giving new reflections and insights. I have appreciated hearing ministers from all over the UK; an opportunity I would have missed had it not been for these strange times in which we find ourselves.

There have been some great hymns, songs and music too. One highlight for me being Maddy Prior singing, 'Oh, Worship the King.'

Like you, I miss going to church and seeing and chatting with everyone. I have lost count of the times I have heard, 'When is all this going to end?' We miss the fellowship church offers.

There are still challenging times ahead and we hear talk of the 'new normal.' We become grateful for little 'highlights'. For example, it was such a pleasure to have a socially distanced BBQ in our garden with our son's family, an event that would, in the past, have been just a normal occurrence.

Although a challenge to our lifestyle, we know many people are suffering illness and bereavement, job loss and stress and so, in the scheme of things, our frustrations are not at the same level of hurt and sadness.

It would be wonderful if in September's Inform I can announce we are back in church.

We continue to pray.

Diane.

Bible Quiz

1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
4. In the Bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
5. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
6. There are only three angels named in the Bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other?
7. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?
8. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
9. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
10. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
11. In what city was Jesus born?
12. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
13. Who was the older brother of Moses?
14. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
15. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?

(Answers on the last page. Don't check too soon!!)

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!

Inform for September

Please send contributions by 19th August.

LAVENDER BAGS for CHRISTIAN AID

During Lockdown, Veronica, Rob's mum, has been crocheting lavender bags. She is not selling them but if you would want one she asks for a donation for CA. Let us know if you would like any. Also, If you have not yet donated to CA Week, and wish to do so, you can either go to the website or ring Rob and he will collect your donation. Alternatively, 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 payable to Christian Aid.

Lectionary Readings



July

5th **Genesis 24:34-38; Psalm 45:10-17;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19**

12th **Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

19th **Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

26th **Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

August

2nd **Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21**

9th **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33**

16th **Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28**

23rd **Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-
8; Matthew 16:13-20**

30th **Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28**

Isolation

We are now in our 12th week of being isolated and speaking for myself, I'm coping alright. I think that when we went through Lent, it made me really think what it meant more than ever.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness on his own. Although we are in isolation, we weren't solely on our own, we have plenty of people at the end of a phone to speak to. We have all the comforts of home. We know it must have been hard for a lot of people - those working on the front line for example.

I have 5 of my family working in the NHS. The only thing I have been able to do for them is keep them in my prayers and that they would come away unscathed by the virus.

I would like to say how thankful I was to Rob and Diane. It was nice to see Rob when he came for my offering and he kept me sane by bringing me jigsaw puzzles which at the last count I completed 8, 1000 piece puzzles. Also, a big thankyou to Diane for getting the Inform to us. I know that a lot of different people have contributed to it but to get all the news to us is great, especially those of us who are in our 12th week of isolation.

I also want to give a big thankyou to Margaret Craig for printing the Sunday Service each week for those of us who are not technically minded.

I think that our lives are going to be very different for quite a long time, but we must be patient and keep to the rules and hope that our faith in our Lord will help us come through this pandemic with a different outlook on life.

I pray for all those who are suffering from the virus and all those who have other illnesses-

I know you are with them, Lord, and pray that they know that you are with them.

May the Peace of the Lord go with you wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness and protect you from the storm.

God Bless!

Margaret Baldwin



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



Phyllis was so moved by this new hymn, she suggested it be included in Inform.

We Will Meet When the Danger Is Over

John L Bell (C) Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community

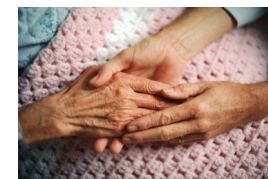
We will meet when the danger is over,
 we will meet when the sad days are over;
 we will meet sitting closely together
 and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
 we will join to break bread and share wine;
 and the peace that we pass to each other
 will be more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
 that when we've all come through is behind,
 we will share what we missed and find meaning
 in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
 faith and love to determine our way.
 That's our hope and God's will and our calling
 for our lives and for every new day.

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New Testament Books and Psalms

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

CORINTHIANS	PHILIPPEANS	ROMANS		
HEBREWS	MATTHEW	ACTS	MARK	TITUS
GALATIANS	EPHESIANS	PHILEMON	TIMOTHY	
REVELATION	PETER	JOHN	LUKE	JAMES
JUDE	PSALMS			

Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

July

5th

New Bethel URC, Pontllanfraith, Aberedw URC, Builth Wells

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

12th

Sardis Community Chapel, Ynysddu, Bryn Zion URC, Builth Wells

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

19th

Cwmbran URS, Salem URC, Maesmynis

Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

26th

Ebenezer URC, Pontypool, Bridgend United Church

The Caribbean



‘CRINGES’

- Who won the race?
Adam, He was first in the human race!
- Why are atoms catholic?
Because they have mass.

Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...

August



- 2nd Central Church, Maesteg
Canada and USA
- 9th Barry Uniting Church, Christchurch, Ogmere
Vale
Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia
- 16th City URC, Cardiff, Trinity URC/Methodist
Church Porthcawl
Oceania
- 23rd Christchurch Methodist/ URC, Cardiff,
Abergavenny URC
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- 30th Bethel URC, Cardiff, Talgarth United Free
Church
Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia

Can you find 30 Books of the Bible in this passage?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. **GO!**

A BIG Thankyou!

As the monthly coffee mornings have not been able to continue and there is no sign if / when they might start again, Enfys has donated the Coffee Morning proceeds of £150 to church funds.

We all miss the coffee mornings and are very grateful to Enfys for being such a lovely Host.

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"I wasn't always as religious as I am now. For years I thought the Ten Commandments were a doo-wop group from the 1950's!"

Dorothy Lewis writes:

"I was impressed and touched with this song which was included in one of the weekly URC services shared during the pandemic and wanted to share it with you all. I have also obtained a copy of the music too which I am happy to share"

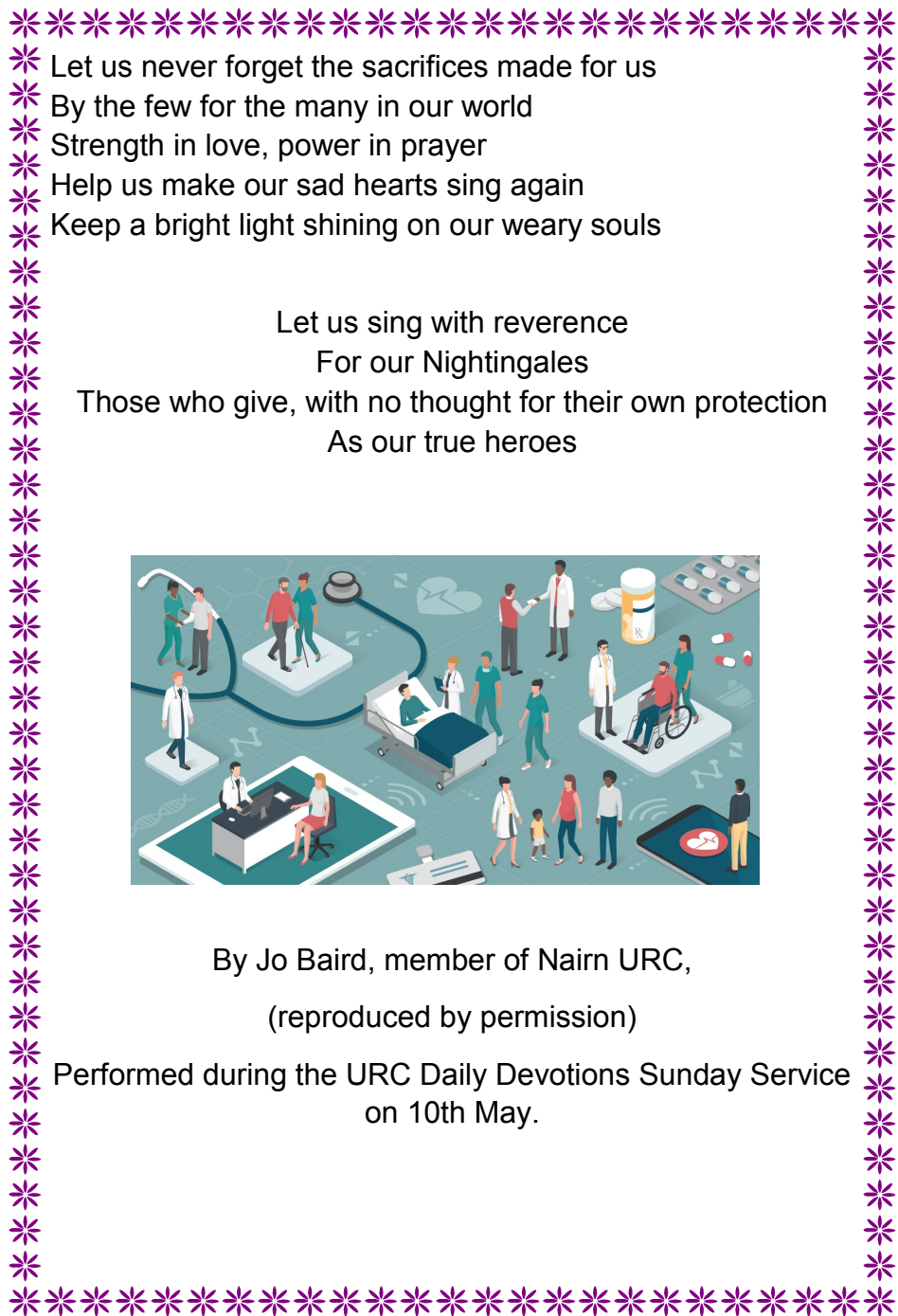
Our Nightingales

Give us strength, keep us brave, help us fight to keep our sanity
In a world that is turning upside down
Distanced from our friends, from our neighbours and our family
Attempting to defy this hidden foe.

As we try to make sense of the new world we are living in
Feeling stunned as the gravities unfold
Spare a thought, spare a prayer, for the Angels in our community
Risking life and limb to save our weakened souls

Let us sing with reverence
For our Nightingales
Those who give, with no thought for their own protection
As our true heroes

When this battle is won and the enemy defeated
Help us to view our future with fresh eyes
Reinforce what's important, friends and family, our community
Love and care before possessions and wealth



Let us never forget the sacrifices made for us
By the few for the many in our world
Strength in love, power in prayer
Help us make our sad hearts sing again
Keep a bright light shining on our weary souls

Let us sing with reverence
For our Nightingales
Those who give, with no thought for their own protection
As our true heroes



By Jo Baird, member of Nairn URC,
(reproduced by permission)

Performed during the URC Daily Devotions Sunday Service
on 10th May.

Gala Concert July 2020 postponed

On 18th July we had planned to hold the fourth David Hawthorn Memorial Gala Concert. Sadly, like so many planned events at VAN-guard it had to be postponed. A great programme had been planned by David Fortey in order to raise funds for Blood Bikes. We will therefore carry this forward into next summer when hopefully the same performers will be available. We have no idea at this stage when any of our activities and events will resume. Certainly, nothing will happen until it is safe to do so.

Thanks

The Revd. Malcolm Shapland has been writing daily prayers during the pandemic. He focuses on the things and people we need to consider and remember with gratitude at this time. Malcolm's words are timely and caring and we thank him for them.

The Revd. Peter Noble has also produced addresses based on the various liturgical passages since Easter. They have been thought provoking and challenging. Thank you also to Peter for sharing his thoughts with us.

Mair



Creative Creator

Lord of life,

Creator of Communities,

enable me

to read the gospels with a new understanding,

to see the world around me set within a global context,

to appreciate people for who they are and

to love humankind in a more positive way

Lord of Life

Spirit of Creativity

encourage me

to step out into the world with a new vision,

to accept challenges and speak out for justice,

to expect positive action as normal part of life and

to bring benefits to women, men and children,

For improving relationships with people

As Christ would have us do.

*(published in Eternal Springs, An anthology of Hope compiled by
Geoffrey Duncan. 2006.)*

This book was recommended to me by Barbara Shapland.

Mair

Goodbye, Diana!

We say 'goodbye,' to Diana Hibbert who leaves
Caerphilly at the end of June to live nearer her son,
James. We will miss her dearly.

Since Diana joined us in Van Road with her husband,
Fred, we have been blessed with her (and previously,
Fred's) dedicated service to our church. She is full of
love and fun and a great support to church members
and the local community.

Diana, we send our love and best wishes to you for the
future. God Bless! Keep in touch!



Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Curse | 10. Psalms |
| 2. Saul | 11. Bethlehem |
| 3. Lot's | 12. Matthias |
| 4. John the Baptist | 13. Aaron |
| 5. 350 years | 14. Gopher wood |
| 6. Gabriel | 15. Joshua |
| 7. The word 'God' | |
| 8. Aramaic | |
| 9. John Wycliffe | |

CHURCH ELDERS

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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)



**But you will be fed with the finest
wheat; with honey from the rock I
would satisfy you.**

Psalm 81 v16

Thanks to John for the bee photograph