

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
DECEMBER 2020 | JANUARY 2021

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

I Want

'I want!' How many times do we hear children and even some adults, say these words particularly as we approach Christmas? Each year, with all the TV adverts and shop windows displaying everything you could imagine.

Then there is maybe worry and stress as to whether these items can be obtained or how to pay for things, perhaps incurring debt. Perhaps the disappointment on Christmas morning when someone hasn't received what was expected. Birthdays are also a time of excitement and expectation. However, when we celebrate the one birthday of the year that should mean the most, the true meaning of Christmas can be forgotten or not given a second thought..

Christmas cards by the hundreds are sent with greetings of peace, joy and love. If only everyone could know that the best gift of all is Jesus and the peace, joy and love that comes with knowing Him.

But how will they know if we don't tell them?

A prayer.

Lord, I know you want us to tell others about your love for them and we fall short from the lack of courage and let you down. How else would we have learned of your love for us if others had not told us?

We pray for the courage to do your will.
Amen!

Phyllis



From the Editor

'Tis the Season

I have lost count of how many times I have heard people comment on what a strange year it has been. It has certainly been a year of mixed emotional seasons, for some more traumatic than others. Seasons that waxed and waned as the months went by.

At the start of the year we had the season of incredulity, naivety and uncertainty;

Closely followed by the long season of fear and dread,

And seemingly an endless season of sadness and worries for the future,

The continual season requiring perpetual care and support.

And recently, and gratefully, the season of optimism with the news of a vaccine.

In the coming weeks we will experience the seasons of:

Advent - a looking forward with anticipation

Christmas - a celebration of the birth of Jesus

Epiphany - the time of new beginnings and hopes and plans for the future.

So God is with us through every season of our lives and we thank Him for it.

Sending you Christmas blessings and wishing you a peaceful and joyous New Year!

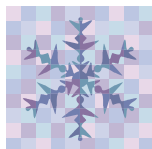
Diane.

Cold Winter Days

Cold winter days are perhaps the least liked in the year. However, I came across this verse and thought, in this time of pandemic, the season isn't as bleak as we might think

The wind blows chill
The year grows old,
December here once more,
And sure the days will colder grow
And wilder winds will roar,
But God be thanked.

December brings again
The Christmas spell
When hearts are warmed
And hopes are bright
And faith says,
All is well!



I would like to send Christmas blessings to all members and friends at Van Road Church in lieu of cards, and wish everyone a better year in 2021.
God Bless you all!

Margaret Baldwin

Belated Love and Birthday Wishes go to -

Vernon Holland, Barbara Lloyd, Jean Mutter and
Margaret Webb

Church Services Worship



November

29th, 10.30am Mr Rob Moverley (Start of Advent)

December and January

We hope to make a decision on future services once we see how the service on November 29th is received. Feedback on how / when services might be undertaken can be given to the Elders to help inform decisions.

Possible Pulpit Supply

December

6th, 10.30am Mr Lewis Lewis-Head

13th, 10.30am TBA

20th, 10.30am Mr Robert Moverley

27th No service



January

3rd, 10.30am Rev. Malcolm Shapland
Epiphany

The church is set up to comply with Covid restrictions.

Remember, alternative church worship can be found at

dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

O, Little Town of Bethlehem

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

BETHLEHEM LITTLE STILL EVERLASTING
 LIGHT DREAMLESS SILENT HOPES GOD
 WONDROUS BLESSINGS CHRIST HOLY CHILD
 BORN ANGELS TIDINGS LORD IMMANUEL TELL
 BIRTH HEARTS MEEK PRAY MARY SIN

Angel on my Shoulder

By Tafadzwa Mhondiwa Mugari

There's an angel on my shoulder,
 Though I've never heard her sing,

I know she keeps me safe
 each day

And close beneath her wing,

My angel does not

Play a harp or rest

In clouds all day.

She's much too busy

Guarding me,

Keeping me from

Harm's way.

She rejoices in

My life' success

And weeps when

I'm in pain.

She picks me up

When I have failed

And helps me try again.

Tonight, I'll say a prayer for her,

And thank the Lord above

For sending me an angel

To lead me with her love.

*I have this poem on a bookmark although it does not
give the poet's name there. Mair*

Belated Congratulations go to

Chris and Robert Harling

**Who celebrated their
50th Wedding Anniversary
in September**

and

Many Happy Birthday Wishes

to Diana Hibbert and Carol Jones

Both 80 on Dec 8th and 21st respectively

FAIR DO's

Many businesses have suffered during the Covid crisis., The shop, Fair Do's is no exception. Usually many churches send representatives to the shop to collect sale or return items but this has not been possible this year.

The congregation at Van Road has always been wonderfully supportive of our Fairtrade stall so if you can, please visit the shop on Cardiff Road in Canton. (large car par at the back of the shop.) The shop has a wide range of goods from food, gifts, craft and clothes.

You will not only be helping the business, you will be helping the suppliers in numerous countries who have also found this period challenging, perhaps more so than we have.

If you can't get to the shop and you know there is something specific sold there that you would like to purchase, please let me know and I will endeavour to get it for you. You may like to visit their website.

Many thanks!

Diane

www.fairdos.com

Tel: 029 2022 2066

We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth

Dorothy Woodward Judy and Rod Jarman

All affected in any way by Coronavirus in UK, Europe and in developing nations.

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,

Teachers and children

Those who have lost their employment and those fearful for their jobs.

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

Those countries facing conflict.



Christmas Cards

It seems to be the same each year,

Cards arrive from far and near,

Sadly some we just don't know

People once met long ago.

This one here, Bill Smith's the name

That's the fourth Bill Smith, all the same,

Sorry we can't place who you are,

Is he the Smith who pranged our car?

He could be the one from Aberdeen,

Trouble at the bar, he made a scene,

Or is it the Smiths we met in Devizes

With all those kids of different sizes?

I remember the Smiths from Tunbridge Wells,

Those incense sticks and funny smells,

And the Smiths we met in the Bahamas,

Came down to breakfast in their pyjamas.

Then there was that very strange
clan,

The noisy Smiths from the Isle of
Mann,

Remember the Smiths with that
daughter

Doing things she didn't oughta?



Next Christmas will be just the same,

Trying to put a face to a name,

The post is here, excuse our groans,

But can you recall some people named Jones? Anon

Christmas Jokes

- What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
- Stick with me and we'll go places
- What does the Queen call her Christmas
Broadcast? - The One Show
- What do reindeers say before they tell you a joke?
- This one is going to sleigh you.
- Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on E
Bay? - Because they were too deer.

Together In Prayer



Please pray for ...

December

**6th
staff** **Bethany URC, Ystrad Mynach, Moderator,
and churches in East Midlands Synod**

**Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-
Bissau and Senegal**

13th **Hall Street Church, Llanelli, Moderator, staff
and churches of West Midlands Synod**

Benin, Cote d'Voire and Togo

20th **Hill URC, Mount Pleasant, Swansea,
Moderator, staff and churches of Eastern
Synod**

Ghana and Nigeria

**27th
and** **Tabernacle URC, Mumbles, Moderator, staff
churches in South Western Synod**

**Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordon, Israel and the
Occupied Palestinian Territories**

Congratulations Hilary and Steve

on your 35th Wedding Anniversary

Together In Prayer



Please pray for ...

January

3rd Gloddaeth URC, Llandudno, Temple URC, Swansea, the Moderator, staff and churches of Wessex Synod.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq

10th Uniting Church, Sketty, Swansea, Moderator, staff and churches in North Thames Synod.

Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

17th St. Paul's Uniting Church, Penmaenmawr, Christ Well URC, Manselton, Moderator, staff and churches of South Synod.

North Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Western Sahara and Tunisia

24th United Church in Rhyl, Albany URC / Methodist Church, Haverfordwest, Moderator, staff and churches in Synod of Scotland.

Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Norway

31st Salisbury Park URC, Wrexham, Christ Church Milford Haven, the General Secretariat and staff at Church House, London.

Ireland and the UK countries.

VAN-guard Centre Report December 2020

Reflection from Mair

It is normal at this time of the year that I look back over the year but what can I reflect upon for this year? I can report that the year started well with some concerts and the usual weekly groups taking place. A new six-week series of Health and Well Being workshops dealing with chronic pain began very successfully, but had to stop after week three, when the U.K. wide lockdown happened in March because of the Corvid 19 virus. All activities and events came to a stop, with the last concert taking place on 14th March with an excellent performance by 'Serenata' and guest artists.

A few days earlier a new contact, the Community Secondary School in Aberdare, held a small lunchtime event with some of their 6th Form Music students, who performed in order to gain experience before their practical examinations. It is hoped that further students will be able to come for the same experience. It was a free event for which 'VAN-guard' provided light refreshments. The donations made by the small audience was given to the school to promote its music education. The students are taught their oral work by David Fortey.

During the closure time we have received many requests as to when 'VAN-guard' will be available once again to book concerts. Regular day time groups have also been in touch, not asking when we will be able to restart our activities, but to enquire how we are. Surely a

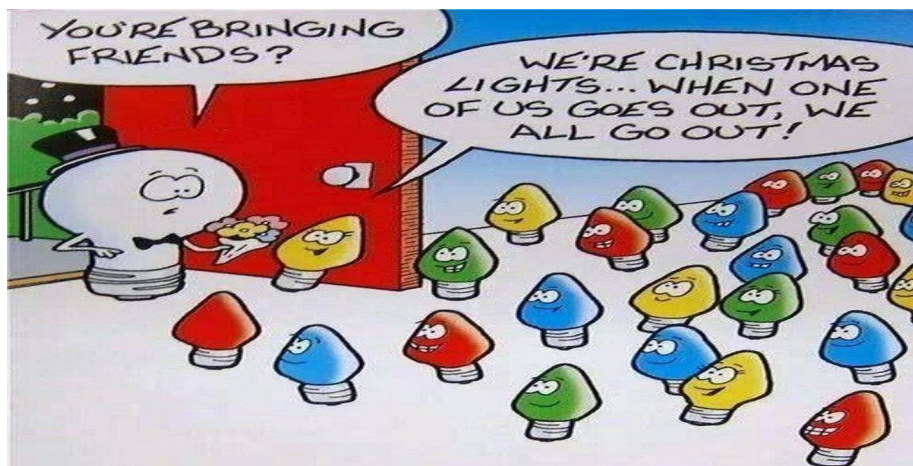
sign of the community contact between the centre and local people and their support for 'VAN-guard' itself.

Time has however appeared to pass quickly. As I write this report, I am reminded that under normal circumstances this would have been week two of the Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition. Let us hope that next year we can get back to 'normal' and hold the exhibition once again.

We have also assured the Blood Bikes organisation that we will fundraise for them at the next Gala Concert after having to cancel the event this year.

We have continued to support the church with a donation to cover half the cost of the deep clean of the church which happened some months ago.

I end this report with the usual best wishes of the VAN-guard Management Committee to everyone for a happy, peaceful Christmas, and a healthy New Year.



Lectionary Readings



December

- 6th** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
- 13th** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 20th** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38;
Luke 1:46b-55
- 25th** Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7;
Luke 2:1-7, 8-20
- 27th** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January

- 6th** Epiphany. Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
- 10th** Mark 1:4-11
- 17th** 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 12-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- 24th** Jonah 3:1-5; Mark 1:14-20
- 31st** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn	02920 866840
Mrs Emma Fitzgerald	02920 821525
Ms Lynda Jones	02920 884022
Mr Robert Moverley	02920 866336
Mrs Cathy Vernalls	02920 887112
Mrs Phyllis Frayling	02920 862285
Mrs Margaret Baldwin	02920 867027

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)



They came from the East to worship Him.