

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
JUNE 2021

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder writes

My mother often says, 'a problem shared is a problem halved'.

As some of you may have seen, just prior to lockdown, there was a fall of plaster from the ceiling of the tower in Van Road Church. We approached our insurers as we believed this was due to high winds. Having sent a loss adjuster to view the damage our insurers agreed we could make a claim for the damage. Our good friend Clive Saunders arranged for the scaffolding to be erected at the beginning of this year and started to repair the damage. We also agreed with Clive it would be sensible to paint the tower while the scaffolding was up and also to improve the plasterwork in the lift lobby. When Clive and Gitto started the work they discovered further damage in the roof space of the tower - one of the beams had become detached from the wall due to dampness coming in from a gap in the tower wall.

When we approached our insurers, they concluded that the original damage to the plasterwork was as a result of the water coming in from the gap in the tower wall and so the work Clive was undertaking was not covered by our insurance. This came as a shock

and disappointment and we continue our discussions with the insurers to try to change their minds on this matter, but to-date we have not been successful. Clive has been very generous to the church and has allowed for us to pay for this work in stages. The cost of the work to the ceiling was £7450 with a further £3000 for the additional work for painting etc. At the moment Diane and I have underwritten the costs for the ceiling with a loan to ensure Clive is not significantly out of pocket. However, to avoid the church using up all its reserves, it seems appropriate that I appeal for donations to help cover these costs.

As my mother says, 'a problem shared is a problem halved'

I do hope you are able to support this appeal in some shape or form. If you have any ideas for alternative forms of fund raising, please let me know.

Elsewhere in INFORM, you can read a letter from the URC Treasurers thanking all members for their continued commitment to the Ministry and Mission fund and explaining how the money is used. I am pleased to say Van Road Church was able to deliver its commitment to M&M in 2020 and into 2021.

Rob

From the editor A Personal Reflection.

I know I am not alone in feeling great sadness and concern for situations in the news such as in Yemen, Syria, Myanmar and Israel and Gaza and the distress of the people in the countries like India, overwhelmed by the pandemic.

Voicing opinions and concerns often leads to accusations of taking sides and accusations of being perhaps anti-semitic for example. But the side we, as Christians, try to take is on the side of supporting basic human rights, fairness and justice.

We try, probably unsuccessfully, to 'put ourselves in others' shoes.' We ask how we would feel not being able to access the right care for our loved ones in the pandemic as in India and how would we feel having our homes and land and livelihoods taken from us and being unable to challenge it? How would we feel to be under continual bombardment and having to become a refugee? How would we feel to have aid we really need withheld or reduced?

Situations are complex and there are no simple answers but I cannot feel anything but despondency when I read information such as -

- 248 Palestinians killed including 66 children and 39 women. In Israel 12 people killed including one child and a soldier. (They are still searching the rubble for more.) A ceasefire but the conflict is not really resolved.**

- UK Covid related aid to developing countries to be paid for out of the reduced Overseas Aid Budget.

The suffering in our world is heart-breaking.

We pray for all people to be entitled to basic respect and human rights and to live peacefully. We continue to pray that world leaders, particularly those wielding great power, search their hearts and show greater care and humanity and take appropriate caring action.

Diane.



Worship



Strict precautionary measures will be adhered to.
Please inform Margaret Craig if you intend to attend.

JUNE

6th	10.30am	Rev. Malcolm Shapland
13th	No service	
20th	10.30am	Mr Peter Speakman (Fathers' Day)
27th	No service	

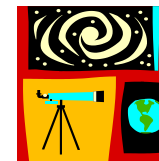


Remember, alternative church worship can
be found at -
dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

Together In Prayer

JUNE

Please pray for ...



6th	Penuel URC
	Angola and Mozambique
13th	New Street Presbyterian / URC, Welshpool
	Brazil
20th	St Mellons Local Ecumenical Partnership, Cardiff and Sarnau URC
	Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay
27th	Pontprennau Local Educational Partnership, Cardiff and Horeb URC, Builth Wells
	Bolivia, Chile, Peru



We hold in our prayers -

Jean Mutter Frank Frayling Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth Margaret Baldwin

Dorothy Woodward Judy and Rod Jarman

All affected in any way by Coronavirus in the 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 .

Those organising and administering the vaccines.



Lectionary Readings



June

6th 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138;
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

13th 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

20th 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-39;
Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13;
Mark 4:35-41

27th 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130;
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



SAINTS

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

AUGUSTINE ANDREW PATRICK DEWI
 ILLTYD DWYNWEN DEINIOL EDERYN
 WINIFRED NON PADARN TYDFIL LUKE
 GWENLLIAN FAGAN CADFAN JAMES
 PETER MARTIN JOHN MARK PAUL

GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR VACCINE

The URC is raising money for its, 'Give Thanks for Your Vaccine' fundraising campaign developed with Christian Aid. Over £20,000 has been raised so far.

"Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping people keep safe from coronavirus with practical support, but with donations they can do more."

Donations can be made on the website -

Give Thanks for Your Vaccine

Many thanks!



DONATING TO CHRISTIAN AID

If you want to donate please contact Rob and he will be happy to collect your donations.

You can also donate on the website. CA has a virtual envelope for donations.

THANK YOU!

Opportunity to sponsor Philomena

Philomena has decided to take the brave step of having all her hair shaved off to raise money for, 'Eternal World Ministries.'

Philomena is looking for sponsorship. This charity has been going for around 30 years and is based in India. It has children's homes, a home for leprosy sufferers and a sewing school to help displaced women. They evangelise in villages as well as providing wells and livestock to help people become self sufficient.

Donations are being sent via Pandey Lane Pentecostal Church who are in contact with the Pastor in charge.

More details can be obtained from Philomena and Dave Clarke.

A Prayer from the charity.

Dear God,

Please help the lonely, the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the discouraged, the heartbroken and the defeated.

Amen.



Quotations Attributed to St Francis of Assisi

'For it is in giving that we receive.'

'It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.'

'Start by doing what is necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.'

'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words.'

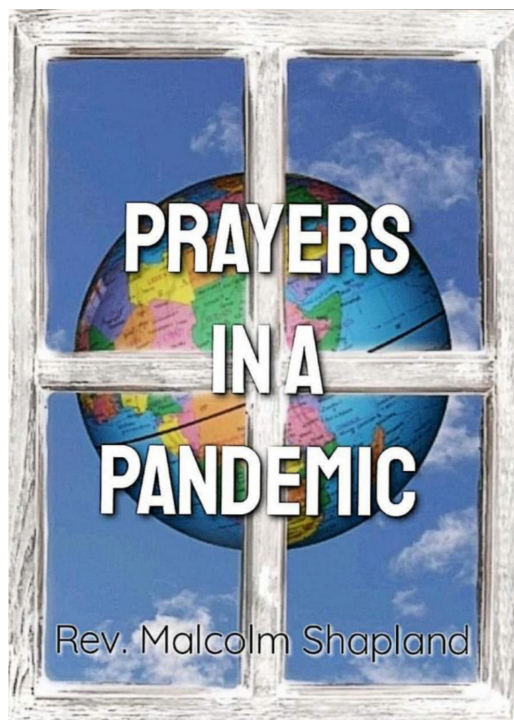
'All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.'



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"I downloaded them from a cloud."



‘Starting in March 2020, Malcolm Shapland spent 365 days writing a series of daily prayers on Facebook to give people messages of hope, contemplation and reflection through what has been a very strange time.’

He has now published this series in a book, available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1527014418) in print and digital versions.

A Thank you message from the URC Treasurers

As members of United Reformed Church congregations ourselves, we understand much of what your church community has experienced since March 2020.

Financially, things have been extremely tough too. Plate offerings have collapsed; some regular givers have had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God’s work; and those churches which hire out their premises have seen income from that source disappear.

At denominational level, we feared that these financial troubles would spell disaster for the URC’s Ministry and Mission (‘M&M’ fund through which the URC has always supported and developed our stipendiary ministers and Church Related Community Workers. It would have been all too easy for congregations to forget that for almost 49 years this fund (under various names) has provided stipends, pension contributions and training for all ministers throughout the three nations in which the URC operates: so that ministry reaches where synods judge it to be most needed and is paid for according to each congregation’s ability to contribute (though the ways of determining that vary from synod to synod). It was all very well to remind ourselves that the M&M fund is meant to be the first call on every congregation’s resources if the undertaking to financially support our ministers is to be honoured. We feared that drastically reduced income would make that impossible and that, because the need was less visible than the other calls on your diminished resources, payments to the M&M fund would have stopped first.

We are sorry if we ever doubted you.

It quickly became apparent that, although some congregations had to reduce their pledged giving to the M&M fund, many more of you were continuing to meet the

2020 commitments you had made during better times, despite the struggles that required. At the start of that year we had been expecting churches and synods to contribute around £18.5 million to the fund. By the year end, all but half-a-million pounds of that had been received. Since Church House staff and committees managed to reduce their budgeted expenditure by almost £1 million, your money enabled us to meet the full costs of our Ministries, Education & Learning, Children's and Youth Work and Mission departments in 2020 as well as covering amounts spent on safeguarding, denominational governance and communications.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that, collectively, you have pledged to give £17.3 million during 2021 despite the financial problems caused by the pandemic being fully apparent well before your offers for this year were made.

We are always grateful for the financial support given each year to the M&M fund by all of you; but this past year has been phenomenal. Thank you to those of you who have been able to maintain or increase financial support for your church congregation through this difficult time. That has enabled those responsible for your congregation's finances to keep more money flowing to the M&M fund than we expected.

Thank you for all your previous financial support to those of you who, after prayerful consideration, have had to reduce or stop giving in response to your changed financial circumstances.

Thank you for the pledges your congregation has made about contributing to the M&M fund during 2021 even though you were by then aware of the impact the pandemic was having on your local congregation's finances.

Thank you in anticipation for what you agree to offer to the M&M fund during 2022 to enable the denomination to deliver ministry, education and learning, children's work and mission activity on God's (and your) behalf.

Of course, our giving for God's work is in response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nonetheless, it is important for us to thank every one of you for what you do for God, your congregation and its and our denominational finances.

Thank you!
Ian Hardie (Treasurer) and
John Piper (Deputy Treasurer)

On behalf of the whole United Reformed Church
Finance Committee

APPEAL
£10,450 needed
As stated in Rob's article, the church needs to find a significant amount of money to pay for the essential repairs in the tower.
Please donate and / or perhaps try fundraising to ensure our church stays solvent and we can pay our bills.

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)



**'Start by doing what is necessary; then
do what's possible; and suddenly you
are doing the impossible.'**

St Francis

Front photograph—the altar in St Non's
Chapel, near St David's, Pembrokeshire