

INFORM

Pentecost



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
MAY 2021

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An Elder writes

Lockdown and Beyond

A common caption seen after World War 2 was -

“ What did you do in the war, daddy?”

The child probably hoped that the answer would be

“ I flew a plane or captained a ship”.

The answer more likely was,

“ I was a mechanic or a driver.” Lesser but vital roles.

Will we be asked, or are we asking now, what did we do during the Pandemic?

First of all we took advice.

Space Face Wash Stay at home. This was our mantra.

We were also told what we could and could not do. This resulted in everyone experiencing some sort of isolation.

So what did we as a congregation do during lockdown?

There has been a great deal of tidying and de-cluttering.

Some ladies have knitted items for sick children.

Volunteering and donating to food banks have been especially useful.

Mindlessly watching daytime television, a new one for me.

Reading has been very popular. So easy to pick up a paperback with the groceries, not really essential shopping but essential for some of us.

What did we do for each other?

There have been many telephone calls and emails. Cards and Palm Crosses have been delivered or posted. This was the best we could do. However, Jesus did say that whatever we did for His little ones, we did it for Him.

As Christians our main aim in life is to worship God. Although the Welsh Government said that churches were open for worship, we took advice from Synod and closed. As I write we have managed to open for four acts of worship in church since the first lockdown. We did, however have plenty of opportunities to worship, either alone, or joining with others.

The U.R.C. supplies us with Daily Devotions, Prayers for the Pandemic, and online Sunday Worship. The Sunday Services are also supplied in booklet form for those not online. We have joined worship using Zoom, new to many of us. Malcolm has supplied us daily with, ‘Spare a Prayer,’ always uplifting. Some have had video links with other churches. Plenty of opportunities are available to worship and praise our God.

Tasks were allocated by Synod which were gladly done. Rob for example has kept the church solvent. As restrictions are lifted and we look forward to resuming worship; the church has been kept safe according to our Risk Assessment. Of course, sanitising and distancing will be ongoing until we are told to stop.

Lockdown may have seemed a barren time. Increasing our discipleship to Walk in the Way of Jesus has perhaps been limited, but new opportunities are before us.

“For all peoples walk, each in the name of its’ god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever.”

Micah ch. 4 v. 5

Margaret C



Ssh, it's a secret, by the Rev Judy Jarman

I am not sure, if, when this edition of Inform is published, we will have celebrated Pentecost. It has got me thinking.

Like Easter, Pentecost has no set date, but unlike Easter and other major celebrations, there are no cards, boxes of chocolates or hot cross buns! It has been many years since we lost the Whitsun Bank Holiday. Other dates have elbowed their way in and Whitsun out. Yet we refer to Whitsunday as the birthday of the Church which must be the biggest secret the Church has outside of its doors!

There will be many who remember the "Whit" marches, when the churches of Caerphilly marched together carrying banners, wearing our Sunday best clothes. Later we shared tea and games over the Maerdy field. As a teenager I had the absolute joy of being baptised. Sadly, at Whitsun, my father died. Pentecost was, and is, a great handing on of the Christian baton.

After Christ's death and resurrection, the disciples met, mainly in fear of what was going to happen to them. They had been told to "wait", and as we had experienced, waiting is very difficult. Like a child we want to know, "are we there yet?" Despite all of the teachings of Jesus, the future of the Christian Church lay on their shoulders.

I love the apocryphal story of Jesus going back to heaven and being questioned by the angels about the continuation of the work He had begun. Jesus points to the small group of disciples with their flaws and failures. "But Master," the angels enquire, "What happens if they fail?" "I have no other plans", Jesus replied.

The spirit is still moving in the Church today, challenging us in and through ways we would never have dreamed of 12 months ago. May our thoughts and prayers re-echo the words of this lovely hymn:-

"O breath of love, come breath within us, renewing thought and will and heart.

Come love of Christ afresh to win us, revive your Church in every part, Amen."

Happy Pentecost!

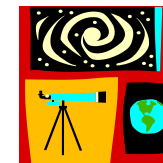


BIRDS

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

GREY WAGTAIL CROW ROOK SKYLARK
 WREN COLLAR DOVE SWALLOW JAY
 BLUETIT ROBIN SPARROW THRUSH
 MAGPIE BLACKBIRD JACKDAW PIGEON
 COALTIT FINCHES

Together In Prayer



Please pray for ...

May

- 2nd Cefnybedd Cilmerly URC
- Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda
- 9th Crane Street URC / Baptist, Pontypool
- Kenya and Tanzania
- 16th Stowe Park URC / Presbyterian Church of Wales,
Newport, Trinity URC / Presbyterian Church of Wales,
Llanidloes
- Malawi and Zambia
- 23rd Dan-y-Graig Uniting Church, Newport, Simon Walkling
and other officers serving in the Wales Synod
- Botswana and Zimbabwe
- 30th Baily Street Uniting Church, Brynmawr, Tabernacle
URC, Rhyadyr
- Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa



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



The family and friends of Nester Jones

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.



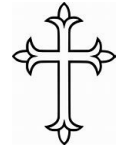
Worship

It is proposed to begin a programme of church services every fortnight from 23rd May (Pentecost.)

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

May 23rd 10.30am

Mr Lewis Lewis-Head



Remember, alternative church worship can be found at -

dailydevotions@urc.org.uk

Possible Zoom Coffee Morning / Tea Party and Quiz

A consideration for the summer is to have a 'get together' event take place via Zoom. It is hoped that those unfamiliar with the technology could perhaps be shown how to access it or join someone with access.

Please ring or email Margaret C or Rob if you think you might like to get involved.

From My Window

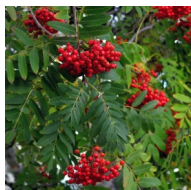
A summer sky; a tall ash tree
With delicate bough and tiny leaves
A feather fan; a blue silk gown
And the small ash keys glide gently down.

A carmine sky; the tall ash tree
Becomes Spanish lace and a rosary
The birds are settling safe from harm
In the evening calm and the moon's soft
balm.

A winter sky; the tall ash tree
Devoid of every leaf and key
Plays host to rooks where the branches V
Their nests high up in their rookery.

A clear spring sky; the tall ash tree
Sprouting and spreading its tracery
And all new life in the vicinity
Will flourish with fresh vitality.

Monica Axford
(Monica was Rob's mums' twin sister)



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10-16 May

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people like Rose are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift can change lives.

Rose's Story



Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Rose strives to provide for her grandchildren who live with her. She does all she can to give them happy childhoods, like the times she remembers when there was plenty of food. But the climate crisis is driving her to the brink.

In times of drought, Rose sets out on a long and dangerous journey every morning to collect water for her family. She walks on an empty stomach.

'Because I am old, I can't walk very fast. When I get home I just rest in the evening. I have no energy to do anything else,' Rose says.

Even when the rains do come, relief for Rose is often short lived. There is a nearby earth dam just minutes away from Rose's home. It should be a lifeline. But it's not wide enough or deep enough for everyone's needs. It runs out of water too quickly.

Imagine how dispirited Rose must feel watching the rain fall for days, only to find the dam empty just a short while later.

What's more, the rains are much heavier than they should be, putting Rose's community at risk of flooding. Rose is over 60 years old and simply won't have the strength to fetch water from further afield for much longer. **We need to fight this climate crisis together.**

'I believe God gives me strength and helps me persevere. I pray that God will help people to help me.'

Rose Katanu

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!

Lectionary Readings

May

2nd

**Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8**

9th

**Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98;
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17**

13th

**Ascension-Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53**

16th

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;
1 John 5:9-23; John 17: 6-19**

23rd

**Pentecost— Acts 2:1-21;
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27;
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

30th

**Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29;
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17**



St Augustine (Died May 26th)

Augustine was probably living as a monk in Rome when in 595 AD Pope Gregory the Great sent him to Britain to convert the Anglo Saxons to Christianity. Although there was some adherence to Christianity during the Roman occupation, the arrival of the Anglo Saxons saw a slip back to paganism.

Kent was chosen as a starting place probably because of its king, Aethelberht. The king's wife, Bertha, was already a practising Christian and she had some contact with the Pope, this might explain her husband's willingness to consider Augustine and his monks' ministry.

The king did eventually convert and the Abbey of St Peter and Saint Paul was later rededicated around 598 to St Augustine. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He created a school and library at the Abbey.

He died on 26th May but the year is disputed, some saying 604 and others, 609.



Suddenly by R.S Thomas

As I had always known
he would come, unannounced,
remarkable merely for the absence
of clamour. So truth must appear
to the thinker; so, at a stage
of the experiment, the answer
must quietly emerge, I looked
at him, not with the eye
only, but with the whole
of my being, overflowing with
him as a chalice would
with the sea. Yet was he
no more than before,
his area occupied
by the unhaloed presences.
You could put your hand.
In him without consciousness
of his wounds. The gamblers at
the foot of the unnoticed

cross went on with
 their dicing; yet the invisible
 garment for which they played
 was no longer at stake,
 but worn by him in this risen existence.

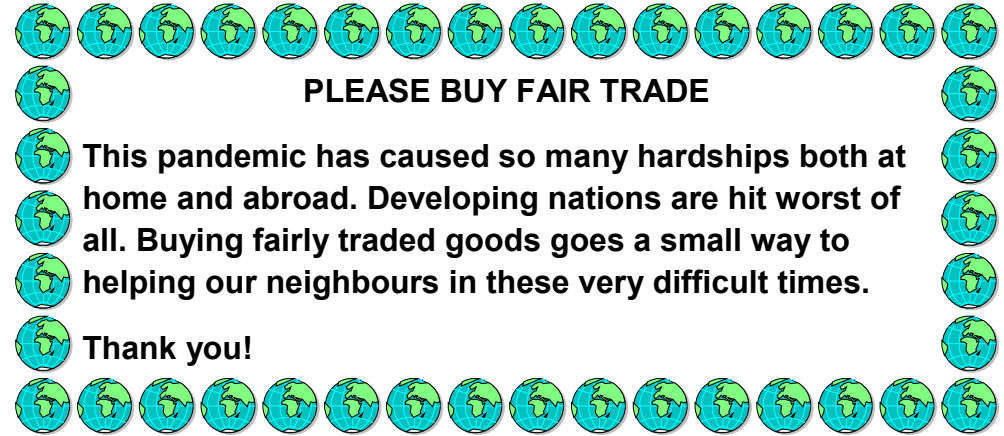
“Resurrection, ascension and Pentecost”

“Resurrection is not complete, however, without the ascension and Pentecost. The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit all come together as a seamless whole. The progression is simple but vital. Jesus’ death transforms us and allows us to become the people that God wants us to be, but the ascension and Pentecost are equally important. Often the ascension is one of the sadly overlooked feasts of the Church because we are not too sure how to celebrate it. If we ignore it however, we lose a vital link in the chain that runs from Good Friday to Pentecost Sunday. The resurrection offers us transformation in Christ, the ascension gives us the motivation to act and Pentecost the ability to do so.”

This section is taken from Paula Gooder’s book entitled, “This Risen Existence”.

Looking to the future-perhaps the Bible Study Group can look at this book in further detail next Easter.

Mair.



PLEASE BUY FAIR TRADE

This pandemic has caused so many hardships both at home and abroad. Developing nations are hit worst of all. Buying fairly traded goods goes a small way to helping our neighbours in these very difficult times.

Thank you!

COME
HOLY SPIRIT
 FILL THE HEARTS
 OF YOUR FAITHFUL
 AND KINDLE IN THEM
THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.
 SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT
 AND THEY SHALL BE CREATED
AND YOU SHALL RENEW
 THE FACE OF THE
 EARTH.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, **AMEN.**

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)



And the light shone in the
darkness...

And the darkness could not
put it out.