

# INFORM



**URC  
VAN ROAD  
CAERPHELLY  
NOVEMBER 2020**

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### **An Elder writes ....**

With the outbreak of COVID-19, we are all currently living in very uncertain times, this has had an effect on all of us in many different ways. I found it important to find how God fitted into the new normal for myself and my family. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. In order to do this myself and my 10 year old daughter, Freya spend some time looking for prayers, poems and inspirational quotes that helped to provide hope and a greater understanding of the world around us during these times of virus and lockdowns. I would like to share some of them with you, they are quite short and simple, however they have provided a form of comfort and reflection for us:

### **Not Everything is Cancelled**

Not everything is cancelled...

Sun is not cancelled

Spring is not cancelled

Relationships are not cancelled

Love is not cancelled

Reading is not cancelled

Devotion is not cancelled

Music is not cancelled

Imagination is not cancelled

Kindness is not cancelled

Conversations are not cancelled

Hope is not cancelled

And God's love for HIS people is never cancelled.

### **Love never fails**

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

### **Lord Jesus Christ -**

you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need

as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength

to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,

and to assure the isolated

of our love, and your love,

for your name's sake.

**Amen.**

**Emma**



## Being in the Right Place



I have lived in Liverpool, amazing city, two cathedrals, lots of famous people, a famous Bishop who was an international cricketer, David Shepherd, and a lovely Catholic Archbishop called Derek Warlock. The Church Unity situation in Liverpool was amazing. The C of E and R.Cs and the Free churches worked together to such an extent that Bp. Shepherd, and A.Bp Warlock were known as fish and chips because they were always in the newspaper. The Free church moderator, on important occasions was always stood in any photograph with them, usually on one side or the other, and because the Free Churches didn't have the appeal of the other two, the press would cut him off the picture. The A.Bp and the Bp. got wise to this and would stand him between them in any line up, and as far as I remember it did the trick. Church unity is not only about theology, it is also about tactics!

Malcolm

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* From the Editor ..... \*  
\* Once again we are frustrated by having to postpone worship \*  
\* in the church. We continue to pray for others as they are \*  
\* urged to pray for us. (See page 7, 'Together in Prayer' for \*  
\* 22nd November.) The monthly prayer list for churches and \*  
\* other countries helps us see that we are not alone and are \*  
\* part of the wider world. I am also fascinated to find out \*  
\* where some of the countries we are asked to pray for are. \*  
\* For example, do you know where Sao Tome and Principe \*  
\* are? \*  
\* Diane \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Church Services

***These are the planned dates but are subject to the decision of the Elders to reopen for worship in the light of current developments.***

### Worship leaders for November

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1st  | _____  |
| 8th  | _____  |
| 15th | Mr Alun Williams   |
| 22nd | Mrs Sally Ball   |
| 29th | Rev. Malcolm Shapland<br>(first Sunday of Advent)<br>Communion |

The church is set up to comply with Covid restrictions.

Remember, alternative church worship can be found at  
**[dailydevotions@urc.org.uk](mailto:dailydevotions@urc.org.uk)**



## Together In Prayer

Please pray for ...



November

1st Elfed Avenue URC, Penarth, staff in the Synod office.

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

8th St David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd, Staff of Cytun and the moderator, staff and churches of Northern Synod

Republic of Congo. Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

15th Castle Square URC, Treforest, staff of Christian Aid and the Moderator, staff and churches of North Western Synod

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea

22nd Van Road URC, Caerffili and our ecumenical partners in Wales and the Moderator, staff and churches of Mersey Synod

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

29th Hope and Market Square United Church, Merthyr Tydfil, the Moderator, staff and churches of Yorkshire Synod

Iberia and Sierra Leone

## 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

### History of the Unknown Warrior



The coffin of the Unknown Warrior in state in the Abbey in 1920, before burial.

The idea of a Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was first conceived in 1916 by the Reverend David Railton, who, while serving as an army chaplain on the Western Front, had seen a grave marked by a rough cross, which bore the pencil-written legend 'An Unknown British Soldier'. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Unknown\\_Warrior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unknown_Warrior) - cite\_note-Memorial-2

He wrote to the Dean of Westminster in 1920 proposing that an unidentified British soldier from the battlefields in France be buried with due ceremony in Westminster Abbey "amongst the kings" to represent the many hundreds of thousands of Empire dead. The idea was strongly supported by the Dean and the Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

### **Selection, arrival and ceremony**

Arrangements were placed in the hands of Lord Curzon of Kedleston who prepared in committee the service and location. Suitable remains were exhumed from

various battlefields and brought to the chapel at Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise near Arras, France on the night of 7 November 1920. The bodies were received by the Reverend George Kendall OBE. Brigadier L.J. Wyatt and Lieutenant Colonel E.A.S. Gell of the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries went into the chapel alone. The remains were then placed in four plain coffins each covered by Union Flags: the two officers did not know from which battlefield any individual soldier had come. Brigadier Wyatt with closed eyes rested his hand on one of the coffins. The other soldiers were then taken away for reburial by Kendall. The coffin of the unknown warrior then stayed at the chapel overnight.

The coffin was placed in a casket of the oak timbers of trees from Hampton Court Palace. The casket was banded with iron, and a medieval crusader's sword chosen by King George V personally from the Royal Collection was affixed to the top and surmounted by an iron shield bearing the inscription 'A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914–1918 for King and Country'.

On the morning of 11 November 1920, the casket was placed onto a gun carriage of the Royal Horse Artillery (N Battery RHA) and drawn by six horses through immense and silent crowds. As the cortege set off, a further Field Marshal's salute was fired in Hyde Park. The route followed was Hyde Park Corner, The Mall, and to Whitehall where the Cenotaph, a "symbolic empty tomb", was unveiled by King-Emperor George V. The cortège was then followed by The King, the Royal Family and ministers of state to Westminster Abbey, where the casket was borne into the West Nave of the Abbey flanked by a guard of honour of one hundred recipients of the Victoria Cross.

The guests of honour were a group of about one hundred women. They had been chosen because they had each lost their husband and all their sons in the war. "Every woman so bereft who applied for a place got it". The coffin was then interred in the far western end of the Nave, only a few feet from the entrance, in soil brought from each of the main battlefields, and covered with a silk pall. Servicemen from the armed forces stood guard as tens of thousands of mourners filed silently past. The ceremony appears to have served as a form of catharsis for collective mourning on a scale not previously known. The grave was then capped with a black Belgian marble stone (the only tombstone in the Abbey on which it is forbidden to walk) featuring an inscription, composed by Herbert Edward Ryle, Dean of Westminster, engraved with brass from melted down wartime ammunition. Around the main inscription are four New Testament quotations:

THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS (top; 2 Timothy 2:19)

UNKNOWN AND YET WELL KNOWN, DYING AND BEHOLD WE LIVE (side; 2 Corinthians 6:9)

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS (side; John 15:13)

IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE (base; 1 Corinthians 15:22)

Services of Remembrance will be smaller this year to meet Covid-19 protocols. However I know that the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in wars and conflicts throughout the world will be remembered with reverence, respect and gratitude regardless of the numbers who will be able to attend the commemorations.

Lynda (information from Wikipedia)

**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  
Neil Watson & family



**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.**

**The people of Lebanon.**



**In REMEMBRANCE**

**High Flight**

**John Gillespie Magee Jr.**

**(9<sup>th</sup> June 1922 – 11<sup>th</sup> December 1941)**

“Oh! I have slipped the surly

bonds of Earth

And danced the skies on

laughter-silvered wings;

Sunward I've climbed, and joined

the tumbling mirth

of sun-split-clouds, - and done

a hundred things

You have not dreamed of –

Wheeled and soared and swung

High in the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there,

I've chased the shouting wind

Along, and flung

My eager craft through footless

halls of air

Up, up the long, delirious,  
burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept  
heights with easy grace.  
Where never lark. Or even eagle  
flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting  
mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity  
of space  
-Put out my hand. And touched  
the face of God”.

I came across this poem a few years ago when preparing a Remembrance Sunday service. I thought it beautiful and also tragic that the writer died aged 19 years. I share it with you now as we come to another time of National Remembrance for the fallen and especially this year when we have commemorated VE Day and VJ Day.

John Gillespie Magee was born in in Shanghai, China, to an American father and a British mother who both worked as Anglican missionaries. His father was from a family of some wealth and influence in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. John was the eldest of four brothers. He attended the American School in Nanking until he came to

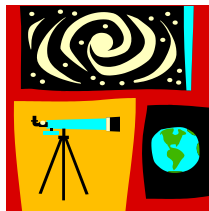
England with his mother in 1931. From 1935-1939 he attended Rugby School where he developed an ambition to become a poet. He was influenced by the poetry of Rupert Brooke. an old boy of the school who died in the first world war. John Magee earned a scholarship to Yale University in 1940 but did not take up his place. Instead he enrolled for war service with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He trained in Ontario and Ottawa and passed his wings test in 1941. After promotion to the rank of Pilot Officer he was sent to the United Kingdom and arrived at the no 53 Operational Training Unit at Llandow in Wales. On 18<sup>th</sup> August, while still at Llandow, he flew a Spitfire 33,000 feet, by far his highest flight to date. This flight is usually accepted as having inspired this poem.

In September 1941 he was sent to RAF Digby where he continued to train on Spitfires. In November he took part in sorties over France and when flying over Dunkirk was attacked by the Luftwaffe. Magee was the only one to survive from a group of four planes flying together. This was his lone engagement during the war. In late November -early December he flew in three more convoy patrols. On 11<sup>th</sup> December 1941, in his tenth week of active service, John Magee was killed flying the same spitfire he had flown in the engagement with the Luftwaffe. He was taking part in a training session when his aircraft was in a mid- air collision. He was able to open the canopy and get out of his plane but died when his parachute did not open. The altitude had been too low for his parachute to open. He is buried in the graveyard of Holy Cross Church in the village of Scopwick in Lincolnshire.

High Flight has been a favourite poem among aviators and astronauts. It is the official poem of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Portions of the poem appear on headstones in the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington and is inscribed in full on the back of the Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial. It is displayed on panels at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Ontario and the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio. President Ronald Reagan used part of the poem in a speech on the night of the Challenger disaster on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1986. It also appears on a brass memorial plaque, at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, to the two Red Arrows pilots who died in an accident in August 2011.

On the death of Senator John McCain, his daughter Megan quoted the poem in a tribute to her father when she read “an old man shook off the scars of battle one last time and arose a new man to pilot one last fight up and up and up, busting clouds left and right, straight through to the kingdom of heaven. And he slipped the earthly bonds, put out his hand, and touched the face of God”.

The poem of John Gillespie Magee lives on the memory of many who have lost loved ones in wars and accidents. We remember all whose lives have been lost in the cause of freedom.



*This information was found on Wikimedia.*

Mair

## Psalm 100

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

THANKSGIVING	PASTURE	COURTS	PEOPLE
THANKS	JOYFUL	WORSHIP	ENDURES
FAITHFUL	SINGING	GLADNESS	SHEEP
STEADFAST	PRAISE	EARTH	GOOD
BLESS	LORD	GOD	LOVE
KNOW	NOISE		



## Christmas Cards

As I have time on my hands I am willing to accept orders for Christmas cards. I am happy to make cards for you from the following designs. I would suggest you order in groups of five and these will be at the usual cost of £3.00 with the proceeds going equally to Church and VAN-guard.

The choice of designs are:-

Victorian Christmas

Magical Christmas, these designs are cute and childlike

Snow Adorable, these are mainly teddies in snowy scenes

“Twas the night before Christmas,

Winter wishes, traditional snowy images,

Miracle of Christmas, religious images,

Stepping into Christmas, Traditional images.

If you want to mix your images or have five from one design that is fine.

Order by telephoning me on 029 2088 7112.

I hope you are all well. I will also deliver them to you.

Best wishes

Cathy Vernalls

## INFORM

Next edition will cover December and January



## Lectionary Readings



### November

**1st** Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Revelation 7:9-17;  
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

**8th** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

**15th** Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

**22nd** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

**29th** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

## HARVEST GIFTS

Members have always been generous in their giving to charity at Harvest time. This year, if we had been able to have our Harvest Service, the Elders would have asked the congregation to make a donation to the charities the church supports e.g. Christian Aid, HHI, Leprosy Mission, Embrace.

If you have not yet given please would you consider doing so, either directly, or by placing the gift in an envelope and giving it to Rob with your weekly offering?  
Thank you!

## CHURCH ELDERS

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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](mailto: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.**