

# INFORM



**URC  
VAN ROAD  
CAERPHILLY  
SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **Church Secretary**

Mrs Margaret Craig

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### **Church Treasurer**

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

**B.C**

**D.C**

**A.C**

Taking life for granted, we've all been guilty of that. The sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening, the seasons change, it rains a lot in Wales and we go to church on a Sunday. But now we can't take things for granted any longer - life as we know it has changed radically and changed globally.

As Rob can testify, I find technology very difficult to comprehend. The computer and I have a long-standing battle, this letter will take forever !

**B.C** It didn't matter so much, I could go to the bank when needed and make an appointment to see a doctor. Shopping was no problem, a trip to town for anything I need. I now know I have to adapt and get technology to work with me and not against me.

How we've adapted to this new normality has made me appreciate how our grandparents and parents had to adapt during the war and post war era. Homes were bombed, children evacuated, food was rationed, young men gave their lives or came home to be never the same again ,but again life adapted to the new normal,

Throughout the Bible we read of sudden changes and adaptations. Moses leading the Israelites into the desert, Joseph and the seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. I bet Mary and Joseph didn't expect their baby would be born in a stable when they had to travel to Bethlehem and I often think of the families of the disciples whose lives changed radically when the bread winner left home to follow Jesus.

**D.C** Lockdown was a shock to the whole nation and our lives seemed to have been turned upside down but now the pandemic is easing thanks to medical technology.

Vaccines have made it safer for us to begin to take small steps towards life as we know it. Masks, sanitisers, social distancing and common sense are now making inroads into keeping this virus at bay allowing us to meet and worship together within the regulations,

**A.C** I hope you've worked out the code or you might feel like giving up now! Now is the time to stop taking things for granted, beginning with our faith and our church .

Churches have had to make the difficult decision to close when the small congregation made it not viable to carry on, some joining other churches where possible. A hard decision but an opportunity to join with others and continue God's work within the community. Within smaller churches the responsibility falls on the few, but as it takes a village to raise a child it takes the whole congregation to reinvigorate the church.

So let us look forward to a more tolerant world, remembering the vast army of volunteers of all kinds that have shown us the inherent goodness that is the human race.

In God we put our trust.

Enfys.



## From the editor ...

Welcome back!

It was so good to see that quite a lot of members have returned to worship on a Sunday, even though to attend we have had to adapt and change our approach. It is very strange to sit apart, perhaps giving polite waves and muttering to each other behind masks, relying on the eyes to gauge a smile. Yet we are back and can only hope and pray that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

We are not naïve in knowing that there is still a long way to go to address all the ongoing difficulties that have been a consequence of the last eighteen months. Covid and lack of access to vaccines, or people refusing vaccines, is still a huge problem, particularly for developing countries.

Covid is no longer the automatic main headline of news bulletins and we are thrown yet again into the domestic and world troubles that surround us. These have not gone away and sadly cannot be alleviated by a vaccine.

We watch in horror and great sadness, the unfolding of events in Afghanistan and the devastation yet again hitting Tahiti.

We ask God to guide and touch the hearts of world leaders so they act with mercy, grace and truth.

Diane

## Worship



**Precautionary measures will be adhered to as necessary.**

**Please inform Margaret Craig if you intend to attend.**

### September

**5th, 10.30 am                      Rev. Malcolm Shapland  
(Communion)**

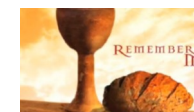
**12th, 10.30am                      Dr. Peter Speakman**

**19th, 10.30am                      Mr Lewis Lewis Head**

**26th, 10.30am                      Mr Trevor Grant**

### Mid-month Communion

**September 8th, 10.30am  
Rev. Malcolm Shapland**



**We are very grateful to Malcolm for once again supporting us by taking, what we hope, will be a monthly mid week service.**

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

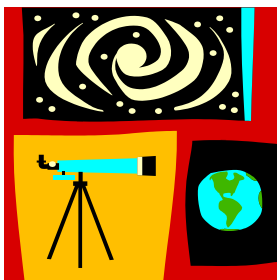
## Together In Prayer



September

Please pray for:

- 5th Parkminster URC, Cardiff and Gilwern URC  
The Balkans: Albaia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia
- 12th Canton Uniting Church, Cardiff and Maesyronnen with Glasbury URC  
Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania
- 19th Beulah URC, Cardiff and Pennorth with Llanfilo URC  
Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
- 26th St Andrews URC, Cardiff and Libanus URC, Brecon  
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia



## Lectionary Readings



September

- 5th Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37
- 12th Proverbs 1:20-33; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
- 19th Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
- 26th Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



## Young Wives

We are planning on holding a Business Meeting on Monday 20 September at 7.30 p.m. We hope this will be possible and will meet safely and within the law. We will contact everyone to confirm this arrangement nearer the time when we know exactly what regulations are in place. We look forward to seeing you all - in the meantime stay safe and well.

Every blessing,  
Carol and Carolyn.

## Oh, So Quiet!

H	L	U	L	L	C	S	R	K	E	E	M
H	U	D	E	N	I	A	R	T	S	E	R
C	Q	S	S	E	L	E	S	I	O	N	R
Q	A	L	H	M	E	L	T	N	E	G	E
U	D	L	S	E	R	E	N	E	C	D	S
D	L	I	M	Q	D	B	L	O	A	E	T
A	I	N	A	U	D	I	B	L	E	U	F
D	K	A	U	Q	U	D	C	K	P	D	U
T	E	I	U	Q	L	P	I	P	E	B	L
H	E	C	N	E	L	I	S	C	E	U	L
P	M	A	S	M	L	L	S	M	A	S	P
R	R	U	K	E	U	D	O	C	I	L	E
T	Q	S	S	E	L	D	N	U	O	S	P

SOUNDLESS	TRANQUIL	LULL	QUIET
INAUDIBLE	SILENCE	HUSHED	PLACID
PEACE	SERENE	CALM	SUBDUED
RESTFUL	NOISELESS	RESTRAINED	DOCILE
GENTLE	MILD	MEEK	

## A Bowler (Walter Charles Jewell)

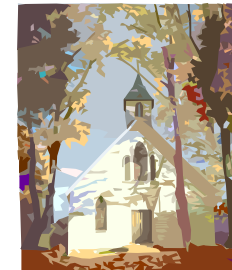
My father was a puny child and not supposed to live,  
By nature, was a gentleman and yes, he did survive,

Not very handy, but a bit of a dandy  
With bowler hat and walking cane,  
He was a smoker, also a joker  
Was very wise, with exercise  
Unable to hike, he rode a bike.

He was a bowler, it was his leisure  
Winning prizes gave him pleasure,  
An office worker, never a shirker,  
At home or in church, always alert.

His health was poor, yet, what was more,  
He lived until he was 84 (and more)  
With a balanced life and a good wife.

(by Veronica Moverley reflecting on her father's life.)





### **Van-guard Notice re Activities.**

**It is hoped that the long awaited start of the Van-guard activities will begin ASAP following the appropriate risk assessments.**

### **Birth Announcement**

**Sally Ball has a new great granddaughter, Sophie Rose. Best Wishes to all the family.**

### **SAD NEWS**

**It was sad to hear of the death of Jean Mutter. Jean and Bill were dedicated, loyal and much loved members at Van Road.**

**Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and Allan and their family and friends. We send them our love.**



### **Miara's Hospital Reflections**

Miara spent some time in hospital quite seriously ill with lung problems and several litres of fluid had to be drained from his lungs. It was a worrying time for him and his family as they waited to find out the cause. Cancer and TB were suggested. However, tests have shown that it is neither but is some kind of condition found in Madagascar (his home country.) Doctors in Birmingham are keen to do research into this condition as it is something totally new to them. He is recovering well and is at home but further procedures may be necessary.

Here are his reflections on his time in hospital.

'The consultant told me that there are two possibilities that caused my illness, but they are still waiting for the results to come back. He told me that it might be Tuberculosis or Lymphoma which is a type of cancer. As soon as he mentioned the word, "Cancer", I could not concentrate on what he was telling me next. My mind was rushing with many questions: "What will happen to Rebecca and the girls? How did I catch this? How will we tell this news to my family back in Madagascar? This news will break my mum's heart, because of the standard of health care in Madagascar, my mum will think that I will not last long. I was thinking about the treatment and my work. My mind was everywhere until the doctor said both are treatable.

That day, I was reminded of the verses in Romans 8: 38-39: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

During my stay in hospital, I felt God's presence right from the beginning and during all my stay. I felt God's love in Jesus Christ through different people I met in hospital: I had a good chat with a nurse from the Philippines who worked in the hospital for 20 years, he is a Roman Catholic and told me that 5 year ago, despite being very healthy and fit, his left brain was bleeding and needed an urgent operation. He told me that sometimes things are happening without a reason. After his recovery, he said that he is very thankful to God every day and he is trying his best to spend good time with his family and friends when possible.

I met a nurse who was a preacher and went preaching in many places in the UK and around the world. He said that he is struggling with his faith at the moment and called himself a "backslider Christian". He said, "Recently, I don't know why I keep meeting other Christians everywhere I go these days". I am glad he is able to share his struggle openly with me. Let's remember him in our prayers.

I met another nurse from Zimbabwe, her nephew was in Toamasina in Madagascar for couple of years and married to a Malagasy. She was hoping to visit them in Madagascar while they were there, but it did not happen. The family are now back in Zimbabwe she said, and they have a daughter.

I had different nurses and doctors from around the world who looked after me. From Romania, Zambia, Philippines, Zimbabwe, India, Caribbean, UK, etc. It is wonderful and amazing to think that people from everywhere are looking after people from everywhere, for me it is the image of God's Kingdom. A cleaner who cleaned my room, moved my small cabin suitcase and he was asking me if I got it from Tesco 7 years

ago through a voucher. I was stunned and said, ' How did you know that? ' He said he got the same and we were having a long chat about traveling and how good is the suitcase. He is Welsh and his wife is English, so during this Euro they have a protocol of supporting Wales first, then England, then Scotland. He said a couple years ago he made a mistake on supporting a country who played against England, he said he had to make his own food for a week.

The last nurse who looked after me for 3 night shifts was called Rob. He said he was a zookeeper 20 years ago and used to look after the Black and white lemur from Madagascar in the Zoo, how amazing is that? He said he always wanted to go to Madagascar but ended up living in Thailand for 3 years. He is now living in Bishop's Castle with his family and knows Montgomery very well. His daughter who is 12 years old is in year 7 in the Community College and she is in the same class as my daughter, Hannah. We had a good chat and I really hope to meet him someday, may be in some events in the college.

These are just some of all the lovely people I met at the hospital. I am so grateful to God for them and the NHS. On the other hand, I am reminded how fortunate I am for all my treatment and care. It will not be the same outcome if this happens to me in Madagascar. I continue to pray everyday for the people who cannot access health care, treatment, and medicines.

The doctor said they could not find any trace of Tuberculosis and Cancer, which was a big relief. This means I had to do a Bronchoscopy, which is a procedure of putting a camera through my nose to my lungs. It flushed fluids and cleaned my lungs and collected some samples for more tests. It is the most unpleasant experience I ever had, but it

must be done. The whole experience is around 25 minutes, and it was unbearable without the nurse holding my hand during the procedure and telling me that I am doing well. I constantly closed my eyes, I felt like Jesus was holding my hand all the way through and whispering at me that, 'all is fine, I am with you.'

After being 11 days in hospital, I was home. It is wonderful to be with Rebecca and the girls again, I can't express my joy to you. I am improving and recovering slowly. I am on medication and the continuation of the treatment will depend on the test result.

Thank you all again for all your support and prayers.

To God be the Glory. '

Miara.



**Caring for others is an expression of what it means to be fully human.**

*Hilary Clinton*

## THANK YOU!

I would like to send a huge thank you to all my dear friends at our church for their cards, phone calls and visits.

My new knee is getting used to me but then reacts sending a sharp reminder it's there ...slow down or else !!!

Carolyn. and I are looking forward to restarting Young Wives when possible . Until then I am sitting back and letting my two wonderful daughters organise their most grateful mum.

Love and many Blessings until we meet again.

Carol.





**We hold in our prayers -**

The family of Jean Mutter      Frank Frayling  
Roy Collins



Rev Malcolm Shapland      Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland      Barbara Lloyd      Carol Jones

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.      The people of Haiti.

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  
organising and administering the vaccines.

Those countries facing conflict particularly in Afghanistan  
and all those desperate for their safety.



**REMINDER-YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**

We have been so grateful to Margaret C for all the  
work she has undertaken with regard to these  
challenging times looking after the church building,  
writing risk assessments etc.

However, she should not be, 'a one woman band!'

Please get in touch with her and offer help if you can  
whether cleaning or welcoming people at the church  
door.

Many Thanks!

**FAIR DO's—Canton**

Now open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

**CONTINUED APPEAL - £10,450 needed**

Thank you to those who have responded with gifts to  
support this appeal to fund the repairs in the tower which  
has already realised over £1000. We have also had an offer  
of a concert from Megan (Phyllis' granddaughter) when  
restrictions permit.

We continue to explore a way forward with our insurers to  
try to reduce this liability.

Please hold in your prayers the challenge this  
presents the church and consider how you / we can  
respond.

## CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn 02920 866840

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)



***Now glory be to God! By His mighty  
power at work within us, he is able to  
accomplish infinitely more than we  
would ever dare to ask or hope.***

***Ephesians 3:20***