

INFORM



**URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
NOVEMBER 2021**

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An Elder writes REMEMBRANCE

November to me is the month of remembering when we have a Remembrance Service to remember all those who gave their lives in wars so that we could live in Peace.

I always think of Richard Ham, a friend's brother, who died whilst serving in Northern Ireland. I also think about people who served in the various wars and who survived but knowing they thought of their comrades who fell.

Throughout this month the weather is usually cold and wet and can be a time when people are unable to get out and about, which makes life difficult for those of us who live alone, as the daylight hours are short usually ten hours or less. I think we need to remember to telephone people and keep in touch and to remind people we are thinking of them and have a chat and a laugh.

I am lucky because I have a group of friends I met in college in Swansea and we regularly talk on the phone, keep in touch via WhatsApp and when we meet up it's like we only saw each other yesterday. We met in the Mumbles at the end of October and we were all there except one who lived in High Wycombe and my best friend who lives in New Zealand.

We are a church family and I know we all care about people we see on a Sunday but we also remember each other at other times through the week. I am proud of our church family and how throughout whether we were able to meet together personally or via all the new methods of communication such as Zoom, we made sure we were safe.

At Easter we remember that Jesus gave his life so we could live. We are reminded of this during a Communion Service and I am so pleased we are able to hold Communion Services again.

I remember people who I have worshipped with over the years and who shaped me in my Christian life and I am thinking of those who are now in heaven and those who are still on earth. Please stay safe and take care and remember to keep in touch with all whom you care about.

God Bless

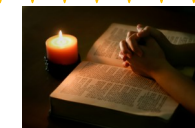
Cathy Vernalls



Lectionary Readings

November

- 7th** Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127;
Mark 12:38-44
- 14th** 1 Samuel 1:4-20, 2:1-10; Psalm 16;
Mark 13:1-8
- 21st** 2 Samuel 23:1-7; 132:1-18; Revelation 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37
- 28th** First Sunday in Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
Luke 21:25-36



Love of Life Dostoevsky 1821-1881

'Lord, may we love all your creation, all the earth and every grain of sand in it. May we love every leaf, every ray of light.

May we love the animals: you have given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Let us not trouble it: let us not harass them: let us not despise them of their happiness: let us not work against your intent.

For we acknowledge unto you that all is like an ocean, all is flowing and blending, and that to withhold any measure of love from anything in your universe is to withhold the same measure from you.'

Dostoevsky was a revolutionary. During his 10 years in Siberia he developed his love of the 'common' people. He was unhappily married, had epilepsy, suffered personally and politically and had financial difficulties.

Through all these hardships he found a strong sense of salvation through suffering.

(Acknowledgement—this account first seen in the church magazine of Christchurch, Llanishen.)

Regarding COP 26

Dostoevsky's words are still relevant and pertinent today.

Worship



Precautionary measures will be adhered to as necessary.
Please inform Margaret Craig if you intend to attend.

November

7th, 10.30 am	Rev. Malcolm Shapland (Communion)
14th, 10.30am	Mr John Wade (Remembrance)
21st, 10.30am	Mrs Sarah Edwards JP
28th, 10.30am	Mr Dave Clarke (First Sunday in Advent)

Mid-month Communion

November 10th, 10.30am
Rev. Malcolm Shapland



Cenotaph Service
Sunday 14th November
3pm

Together In Prayer



November

Please pray for:

7th St David's Uniting Church, Pontypridd,
Staff of Cutyn, Moderator, staff and churches of the
Northern Synod

Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

14th Castle Square URC, Treforest,
Staff of Christian Aid, Moderator, staff and
churches of North Western Synod

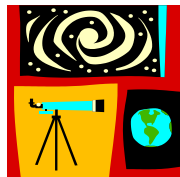
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial
Guinea

21st Van Road URC, Caerffili, our ecumenical partners
in Wales, the moderator, staff and churches of
Mersey Synod

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

28th Hope and Market Square United Church, Merthyr
Tydfil, Moderator, staff and churches of Yorkshire
Synod

Liberia and Sierra Leone



COP26

We're hearing a lot about COP26 in the news recently - the conference in Glasgow that is bringing together the leaders of the world to discuss (and hopefully gain commitments) to reduce the carbon emissions that are recognised as causing global warming and caused many nations - including Wales - to declare there is a Climate Emergency. But what is COP26?

COP stands for Conference of Parties and it is the term used by the UN when they bring together the nations of the world to discuss important things. In this case the conference is discussing issues associated with climate change and there are over 190 countries represented. As this is the 26th time this Conference of Parties has taken place, it has been convenient to add the number 26 making it COP26.

The meeting in Glasgow this year was delayed from last year due to Covid. If you go back roughly 26 years, you may remember the first of these conferences was in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 when commitments were given by 37 industrialised countries to reduce carbon emissions to an average 5 per cent emission compared to 1990 levels over the five year period 2008–2012. It took the nations of the world until 2005 just to ratify that commitment! In Doha, in December 2012, the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted for a second commitment period, starting in 2013 and lasting until 2020 when the Parties committed to reduce Green House Gas emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels. However, the Doha Amendment has not yet entered into force as it required 144 countries to commit to it.

Another key event was the meeting in Paris in 2015 when further commitments were agreed. These were to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels and 196 countries were party to this agreement, though you may recall as soon as Donald Trump became president of the USA he decided America would withdraw from this commitment.

This year, as the UK hosts COP26, we have already seen disagreements amongst some of the larger nations about how best to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions. Countries that have industrialised more recently, such as China and India feel countries who have been contributing to climate change for longer such as the USA, UK and Europe should take a greater share of the responsibility for reducing their emissions. It will be interesting to see what will come out of the meeting in Glasgow in November.

So what can we do? Firstly, be aware of the small changes we can make in the way we live that can reduce our own carbon footprint - use our cars less and travel by public transport when we can, turn our heating down a degree when we can, adopt a less meat intensive diet by choosing meat free meals once or twice a week. We can also lobby our representatives to show we care and ask they do everything in their power to help us change the way we live and we can pray for God's guidance as we seek to care for the world in which we live.

Rob



VAN-guard Centre

Charity registration number 1109193

Report November 2021

It was in July that I last wrote a report from VAN-guard. On that occasion I mentioned the death of Sir Simon Boyle, former Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, who had been a great supporter of the restoration work carried out in the church and of VAN-guard activities. We received a very moving letter from his widow as a result of the letter we sent on behalf of the Centre and the Church.

Although there have been no activities in VAN-guard since March 2020, and no income as a result, bills still arrive for insurance, web site maintenance, piano tuning to maintain the piano in good order, and helping the church with commercial cleaning costs. During this time we have also had to submit two Charity Commission Reports because the Centre is a registered charity.

Time has been spent working with some of our groups to provide risk assessments to allow them to return to the building. We are grateful to the Church Secretary for the time she has spent assisting this process. At last, there is some daylight at the end of the tunnel and three groups have had their risk assessments agreed. They are the Caerphilly Community Chorus, Only Boys Aloud and the VAN-guard Centre Art Group.

The dates for returning to activities is for each of these groups to decide. The good news is that the OBA choir will resume their rehearsals on Monday 1st November for 6 weeks. David Fortey will once again be heavily involved with the group.

There are groups and performers yet to complete risk assessments and we hope that these will be submitted and agreed in the not-too-distant future. *Mair*

Young Wives

Restrictions permitting we are hoping to hold a meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 6 December. We will meet safely and within the law. It will be lovely to see everyone after such a long time.

Some of you know that although we haven't been able to meet we have still supported the church and the Leprosy Mission. In 2020 we donated a total of £400 to Van Road plus £100 to the Leprosy Mission and in 2021 we sent £100 to the India Appeal (for vaccinations) for the Leprosy Mission and Mr. Trevor Grant received a cheque for £100 when he visited the church in September. We have also given a further £250 towards church funds. We are proud to be able to support the church and the Leprosy Mission in these difficult times.

Looking forward, in faith, to 6 December.

Every blessing and stay safe!
Carolyn



In Our World

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

CLIMATE CHANGE	FORESTS	COAL	SOLAR
ELECTRICITY	CREATION	CRISIS	OIL POLAR
POLLUTION	WASTE	WIND	WILDLIFE WARS
GLOBAL WARMING	OCEANS	SEAS	CARE
COMMITMENT	HOPE	ECOLOGY	LOVE

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

It was decided that there would be no ecumenical service this year due to the concern of the rising numbers of Covid cases.

The service book is available for any individual or group. We will send a donation to Headquarters.

Margaret C



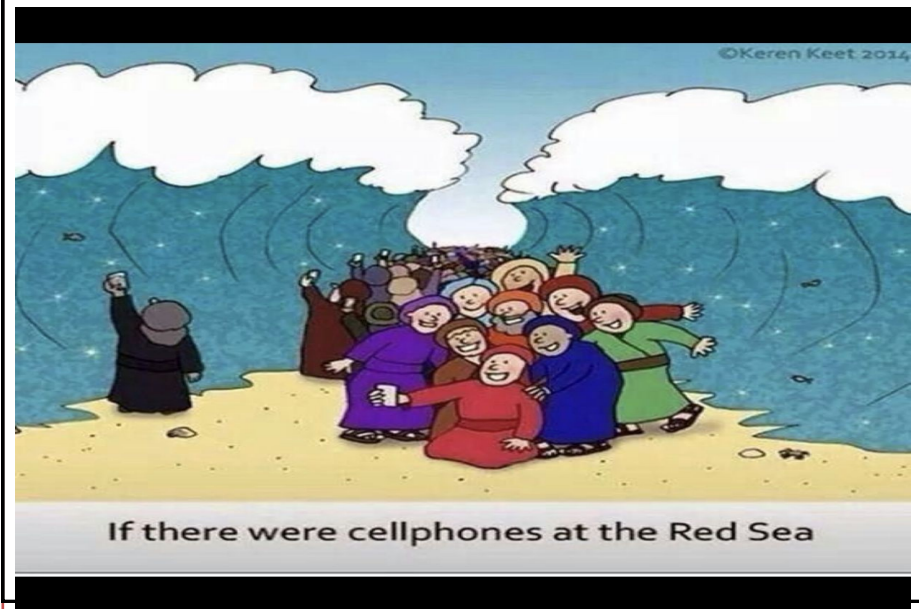
DRAWN ON WHITESANDS
BEACH, WEST WALES

Homeless News

This year, the churches will not be organising any Night Shelters as there is an expectation that local authorities provide accommodation for anyone who is homeless. That said, the churches have been asked to be involved in a rota to provide an evening meal for guests during the winter months spread across Blackwood and Caerphilly. If you are interested in being involved with this, please speak to Margaret Craig, Margaret Baldwin or Cathy Vernalls.

Club 707

Club 707 are hoping to run their Christmas Unwrapped programme with local schools in Van Road between 29th November and 1st December. Alyson Godfrey and the team would be grateful for any support you can offer.



Christian Aid - Harvest Appeal

SISTERS TOGETHER

Janet remembers the love, friendship and sense of community she felt when she joined the Makande Women's group, a local co-operative of female entrepreneurs:

'I gave birth to my third child just after joining the group.' says Janet, 'Guess what? The group showered me and my baby with gifts, which was the first time I had experienced that since I got married. This was the turning around of my story.'

As well as a sense of solidarity between the members, the women in the group are transforming their lives through an innovative, sustainable baobab juice making business. Supported by Christian Aid's partner, Eagles Relief and Development, the women received training, equipment and a low-cost loan to set up and grow their business.

Now the women make up to 6000 bottles of baobab juice a month, and have increased their income tenfold. In the wider community 188 jobs have been created through the women's enterprises. As more women join the group, they learn valuable skills from other members, improving the lives of more women.



A Hymn For Our Times

In Christ there is no east or west,

In Him no south or north,

But one great fellowship of love

Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere

Their high communion find;

His service is the golden cord,

Close binding all humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith

Whate'er your race may be

Who serves my father as a child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,

In Him meet south and north;

All Christly souls are one in Him,

Throughout the whole wide earth.

John Oxenham (1852-1941)

We hold in our prayers -

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. 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 and future.

Those people helping to welcome and settle refugees.

The decisions made by the attendees of COP 26.



Christmas Cards

If anyone would like to order Christmas cards I am happy to make them and deliver them to you. I will sell them at 75p each or five for £3:00 which is pay for 4 and get 5.

I have the following designs available so you can decide what you would like.

A Child is Born. Religious Images.

Christmas Spirit. Religious Images

A Victorian Christmas. Traditional Images

A Magical Christmas. Snowy Images.

Little Book of Christmas. Mixture of Cute and Traditional Images.

Winter Wishes. Snowy and Cute Images.

Snow Adorable. Cute Winter Images.

The money raised will be split equally between Van Road URC and VAN guard.

Thank you! Cathy.

Good News

The insurance company has now agreed to pay for the work to repair the tower ceiling. Many thanks to everyone who supported the appeal for additional funds to repair the roof timbers and paint the tower. This has meant we have been able to pay all outstanding invoices to our contractor, Clive Saunders.

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

(or if not on e mail then items can be left
in the box at the back of the sanctuary)



**In the going down of the sun
and in the morning -**

We will remember them.