

INFORM



**URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
FEBRUARY 2022**

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An Elder writes

Grace Love Fellowship

In the United Reformed Church, during our services, there may be little participation from the congregation. Of course we sing hymns and always join in with the Lord's Prayer. We may be asked occasionally to do a reading or make responses during a prayer. Many people are happy with this form of service.

However there is one act of worship we all enjoy and that is to say The Grace to each other at the end of our service.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13 v 13.

We give thanks to Paul for these words.

John Wesley set great store by this blessing, and encouraged it to be used at the end of every Methodist meeting. He sternly admonished people to never leave a meeting before this benediction. The words were to be looked on with meaning and respect.

I am sure that we both respect and enjoy the words of The Grace, but let us look at each one of them.

The GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus exuded GRACE. This was shown in His ability to include all people in His life. He chose his disciples from all walks of life. He had time for the rich and poor, for those who wished to follow Him, and for

sinners. He healed people whether they were Roman or Jew. His grace and wisdom he extended to all people. That the son of God lived in this way was, and is, a blessing for mankind.

The Love of God

God in His love for us has surrounded us with many blessings. We enjoy our homes, friends and families. We see beauty all around us. We live in a friendly town. Importantly we have freedom to worship our loving God who is ever willing to forgive our sins. While enjoying these many blessings we are reminded to extend love to those who are feeling unloved and without hope. As the hands of God on earth we can find different ways of showing His love to others.

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

In Van Road URC we enjoy fellowship with one another. I believe that this has not wavered during the pandemic. We enjoy fellowship with other churches and with the Council of Churches. However I am sure that most of us enjoy fellowship with people of other religions or no religion. This would be in keeping with the teachings of Jesus. We might include our work with the Leprosy Mission, HHI, and Christian Aid as part of our fellowship with others.

We had David, a rough sleeper, taking refuge in our side alley. I was fearful that he would be asked to move on, but the congregation were supportive and helpful. We offered, I think, practical fellowship. It seems that the Holy Spirit shows that we can offer fellowship in many ways.

As we say the Grace together we can be assured that Grace, Love and Fellowship are with us every day of our lives, and for this we give thanks to our God and our Saviour.

Margaret C

From the Editor

It is with anger and dismay that we hear in the news of the 'goings on' in Downing Street during these stressful Covid times. We expect better! However, there are many leaders that have awed and inspired us over the years (sadly, not a lot of politicians,) and so I was saddened to hear of the death in December of the wonderful Desmond TuTu.

Those who went to the Teulu Duw event in Builth Wells (1984) will remember Archbishop TuTu as a little man with a huge, sunny personality; he didn't walk but seemed to dance along. He made people smile with his exuberance and admire his wise words and vibrant faith.

Here are two of his memorable reflections.

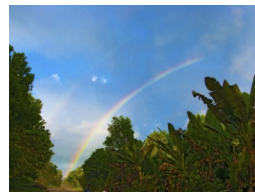
'My father used to say, "Don't raise your voice, improve your argument." Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large unruly crowd is the best arbiter of what is right.'

'In South Africa I have sometimes said in big meetings where you have black and white together, "Raise your hands." Then I have said, "Move your hands," and I've said, "look at your hands— different colours representing different people. You are the Rainbow people of God.'"

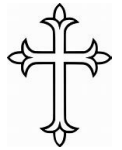
We need to remember that we are -

The Rainbow People of God.

Diane.



Worship



February

6th, 10.30 am	Rev. Malcolm Shapland (Communion)
13th, 10.30am	Mr Robert Moverley
20th, 10.30am	Dr. Peter Speakman
27th, 10.30am	TBA

Mid-month Communion

February 15th, 10.30am
Rev. Malcolm Shapland



'Cringe'

-What did the classmate say when asked why they kept walking next to the same person all the time at school?

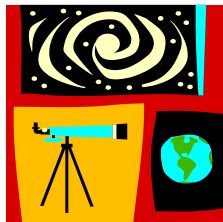
-I was told I'm supposed to walk by Faith!

From 'Sunday School Praise'

**Down deep dark mines below the ground
Fathers and brothers toil,
And dig for coal to warm our homes,
And make our kettles boil.**

**Thank God for coal! God bless the men
Who work in cheerless gloom,
and when their daily toil is done
God bring them safely home.**

W.M. Page 1869-1940



How times have changed!

Lectionary Readings

February

- 6th Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- 13th Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
- 20th Genesis 45:11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38
- 27th Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



BIG DAY OUT!

Saturday 25th June

At the Royal Welsh Showground

**This is the main event for the URC's
Golden Jubilee**

Save the date!

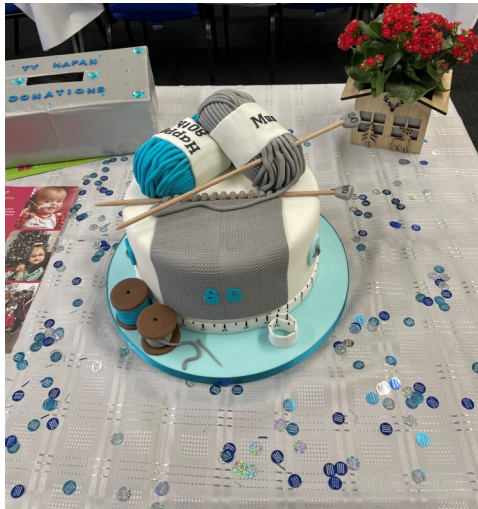
THANK YOU

Thank you for all the cards and gifts received for my 80th birthday in December. I had a wonderful few days celebrating with family and friends. I am sorry that more people couldn't be invited but unfortunately, we were restricted to numbers due to COVID-19. You will see below a picture of my birthday cake which I think was the star of the day (I didn't want to cut it). I received a lovely thank you letter from Ty Hafan, I was able to send them £320.00 in total thanks to everyone's generosity for donations rather than gifts, although I did receive some lovely gifts and flowers as well.

God Bless and wishing you all a Happy New Year

From

Margaret Baldwin



The Whole People of God Called and Committed to His Service (A Consideration of Ministry)

At the Autumn Synod meeting last year we received a Proposal for the Provision of Ministry in Wales titled "The Whole People of God Called and Committed to His Service".

Synod representatives were asked to take this paper back to their local church for consideration and return to the Spring Synod this year with comments. The paper looks at the forecasts for full time ministry in Wales going forward to 2030 and considers what the Church's response could be. The paper asks a number of questions of Members, Elders and Ministers and offers suggestions on support that can be offered to help people develop in these roles.

In its introduction the report states,

"You are a human being, made in God's image, with the breath of God giving you this amazing life, and gifts and talents to live it to the full. You are reconciled to God through Jesus. You are a child of God. When people talk about 'the church' that is you. When you read, 'the United Reformed Church', that is you. Whenever it says somewhere "The National Synod of Wales" or just simply "the Synod", that is you. If someone refers to your church by name, that is you.. When folk talk of the need for ministry in the church, they are asking about you, your God given gifts, your talents, the part which you play in the life of the church, in bringing that Jesus effect, that reconciliation with God to bear in your community."

The report asks a couple of questions to members of the Church namely: *“What gifts and talents do you have to offer in your service as a member of the church? What would help you to develop your faith and discipleship?”* and provides pointers to a number of initiatives to help us develop our walk of faith. It also asks questions of Elders and Ministers.

The report concludes that the Church should, *“embark on an intentional journey of developing our discipleship, our leadership and the way that we share our resources. It is a commitment to grow and be creative in our service, thinking of the church as the people whose faith and worship permeates every area of our lives, not just one hour on a Sunday morning led by ‘the Minister’ but every day, members, elders, CRCWs and Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, together walking the way, whole-life disciples of Jesus.”*

Please take time, if you can, to read and consider the full report and share your thoughts with me or one of the elders before the next Synod meeting at the beginning of March. I will distribute the report by email. Margaret Craig will be able to offer hard copies to anyone who does not have access to email.

Rob Moverley



Psalm 23

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

SHEPHERD	DOWN	PASTURES	LEADS	QUIET	
WATERS	SOUL	RESTORE	WALK	PATHS	
DEATH	DARK	VALE	FEAR	WITH	ROD
COMFORT	STAFF	RIGHTEOUS	GRACE	CHALICE	
MERCY	GOODNESS	DWELLING	HOUSE	LIFE	

Young Wives

Dear friends,
Carolyn and I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and that you will all have a healthy and peaceful year in 2022.

As you are aware we had intended meeting twice before. This had to be cancelled owing to Covid. We hope now to try again and meet the Monday night after half term towards the end of February. We will phone you all in the next couple of weeks (THIRD TIME LUCKY) . The evenings will be lighter and we hope that you will look forward to joining us again.

Many Blessings to you all

Carol.



St Teilo Feast Day Feb 9th

Born 500, Died 560

Teilo was born in Penally, Pembrokeshire. He studied under Saints Dyfrig and Dubricius. He accompanied Saint David to Jerusalem (they were good friends) and was a friend and assistant to Saint Samson in Brittany for 7 years. He was quite successful as a preacher and founded and served as abbot-bishop of Llandaff Monastery in Dyfed. He also founded Llandilo Fawr and Penally Abbey. He was buried in Llandaff Cathedral.

We hold in our prayers -

Frank Frayling

Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland

Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth

Dorothy Woodward

Judy and Rod Jarman

John and Mair Wade

Finn and family

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.

Teachers and children.

The people of Tonga.

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 hardships, particularly in Afghanistan and Yemen and all those desperate for their safety and future.

Those people helping to welcome and settle refugees.



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

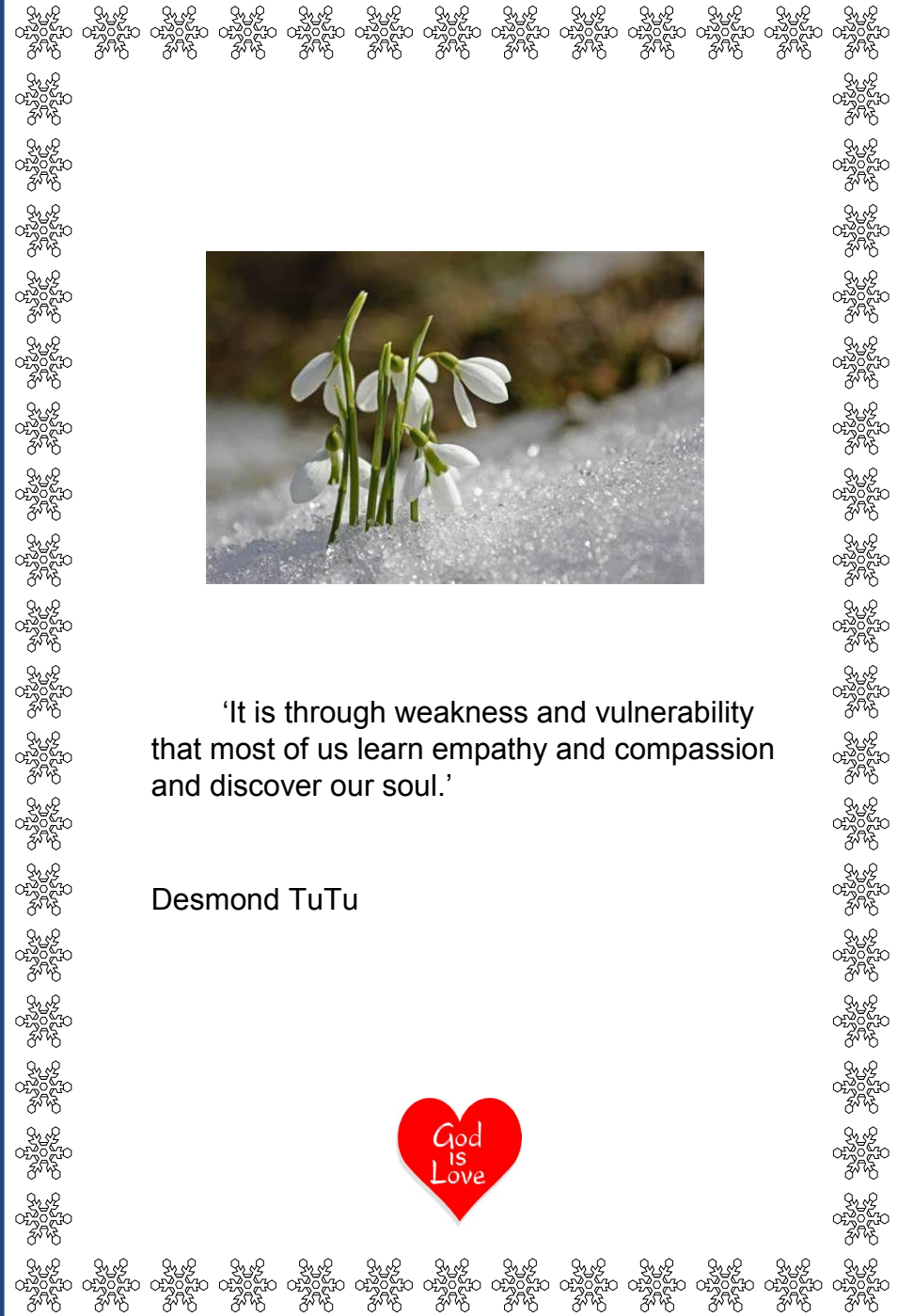
Any items for the next edition should be
submitted by the 19th of the month

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)



'It is through weakness and vulnerability
that most of us learn empathy and compassion
and discover our soul.'

Desmond TuTu

