

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
MARCH 2022

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★ An Elder writes ...

★ On 27th March it will be Mothering Sunday and during the following week on 30th March my mum, Veronica will be 100, so I thought I'd share a little about this remarkable woman. She was born unexpectedly as the 2nd of twins - her sister being Monica. They were christened when they were 2 weeks old because mum was not supposed to survive very long. Her mother, who was 40 at the time with 3 children already said, 'I didn't want twins, and if I'd only had one I wanted a boy!' Despite that comment, mum regularly comments that she grew up in a loving family.

★ She says her father was 'more pious than thou' and attended St German's church regularly and when they were old enough he took the twins on Sunday. "Who's that dad?" they would often ask as he chatted with someone on his way there or back. Her mother stayed at home supporting the family milk business.

★ After school, mum went to work for the Post Office as a telephonist and worked in 9 different telephone exchanges during the war. This included going to Swansea to help out after Swansea had been bombed. She also talks about the challenges of walking home to Splott in the dark (during the blackout) after a night shift in Llandaff exchange.

★ Mum met my father, John, at St German's and their relationship developed during the war years - despite my father spending quite some time away from home as he was in the RAF - and they married a couple of years after the war ended. This period was difficult for mum's family as her brother died at the end of the war in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.



★ Mum gave up work as a telephonist when she married and never returned to work, focussing more on the care and nurture of her family. She says she had a cushy upbringing so after they married she had to learn to cook. When she told my father she wasn't sure how to make something his response was simply 'you can read the recipe can't you?' How times have changed! Dad went to work, mum looked after the house. They had 4 children (my 3 sisters and me) and we were brought up to go to church which helped each of us develop our own Christian faith.

★ Mum has always had a positive attitude to life. Carpe Diem - Live for Today - is her motto. She says, "I wake up in the morning and I thank God I am alive". Dad died when they were 70, but mum took this in her stride and forged out a new life on her own, quite happy to live independently up to this day. Despite her movements becoming restricted, she refuses to have a stair lift - "if I don't use my legs they'll stop working", and continues to keep herself occupied by crocheting lavender bags.

★ Mum has always had a strong Christian faith and we have always been able to discuss and share our faith as a family. This is down to mum's openness to share hers and allow it to develop as she has grown older. She regularly finds little reflections that she contributes to her own church magazine. She also expresses that faith in her care for others. She will regularly ring friends and family just to check how they are, it continues to surprise me how many people she is still in touch with.

★ I meet so many people who say, "Your mum is amazing" and I know what they mean. She has experienced much change in her life but still looks forward to what tomorrow brings. Hopefully, more of the same

★ Happy Birthday, Mum. Rob Moverley





Veronica and Monica with their father, Walter.



Veronica visiting St German's Church

JUST GIVING

To celebrate her 100th birthday, Veronica Moverley's family have set up a Just Giving page to raise money for the British Red Cross. The organisation has meant a lot to Veronica over the years. She particularly remembers the food parcels they were able to deliver during the second world war - her brother died as a Japanese POW. This is her chance to give something back.

The page for donations is-

www.justgiving.com/VeronicaMoverley

From the Editor

One of the things I miss since retirement is the annual school St David's Day Eisteddfod.

A couple of weeks before the day, each class would rehearse a song or poem, sketch or dance ready to be performed on March 1st. There would also be competitions for art and DT, poetry, handwriting and story writing. The winning entries announced by their pen names at the Eisteddfod itself.

It was always my privilege to judge the year 6 poetry writing competition. There might be a title such as 'Pethau Cymru,' (Things Welsh;) but more often it would be based on the children's own choice of photograph examples from all over Wales - scenes, festivals and sports for example.

It was always a difficult decision and I would not know the identity of the winner until the Charing of the Bard Ceremony near the end of the Eisteddfod.

It was a joy to see the children in the hall wearing Welsh costume or Rainbow, Brownie or Cub uniforms and wearing daffodils. There was always a big cheer for the winning House and a rousing rendition of the National Anthem to finish.

Gone are the days of a half day holiday such as I had when I was in school, but I still remember the joy of performing at our school Eisteddfod on St David's Day morning.

Opportunities to come together and create memories are a blessing and should always be cherished. If you have any you would like to share please let me know.

Diane.

Worship



March

6th, 10.30 am Mr Dave Clarke
13th, 10.30am Rev. David Salsbury
20th, 10.30am Mr Lewis Lewis Head
27th, 10.30am Mothering Sunday
Lynda Jones and Young Wives



Mid-month Communion

March 9th, 10.30am
Rev. Malcolm Shapland

A Nod to Wordsworth.

Daffodils

I crept crookedly as a cloud
That floats on high over valleys and hills
When all of a sudden I saw a crowd
A patch of golden daffodils
Below the lake, beneath the trees
Rapping and break dancing in the breeze.

Daniel Rooney (age 10 in 2002)

From, 'Sunday School Praise'

So here hath been dawning

Another blue day,

Think, wilt thou let it

Slip useless away?

Out of eternity

This new day is born;

Into eternity,

At night will return.

Behold it a foretime

No eye ever did:

So soon it forever

From all eyes is hid,

Here hath been dawning

Another blue day,

Think wilt thou let it

Slip useless away?

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

(I wonder what tune it would have been sung to.)



THOMAS CARLYLE

Thomas was born in Scotland and was an influential historian and essayist. He was a cultural critic, lecturer and mathematician. His influences included Shakespeare and Muhamad.

His philosophy would unlikely be popular today as he espoused, 'the rule of all life was that life was ruled by inequality;' he believed that ruling should be left to the most competent members of society, most would and should, he felt, come from the aristocracy.

LENT

So where does **Lent** come from, and how do we "do" Lent?

The Lenten season developed as part of the historical Christian calendar and is typically celebrated by Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and some mainline Protestant churches that follow a liturgical calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same:

-to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week.

Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modelled after Christ's forty-day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality.

(Acknowledgement ,extract from Christianity.com)

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

March 2022 Report

Groups news: Only Boys Aloud (OBA) and the Caerphilly Community Chorus resumed their rehearsals in January. The University of the Third Age (U3A) will return for their first meeting on Friday 4th March and have speakers booked until July. The remaining groups have yet to decide upon dates to resume activities. The Chorus are currently advertising for a new Musical Director. Mr Tomos Gwyn is leaving the choir in April. We wish the Chorus Committee good luck with the task of finding another Musical Director.

Other bookings: Only Men Aloud (OMA) have booked two rehearsal dates in preparation for a concert in St Andrews URC in Roath, Cardiff , at the end of the month, where Rev. Des Kitto is minister. This replaces the Christmas Concert that was cancelled.

We have provisionally agreed to a performance of Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte* by Cardiff Opera in July. This will also involve two weeks of rehearsal prior to the performance. Hopefully, it will be something to look forward to in the summer.

Good news: Recently OBA embarked upon a crowd fundraising campaign to raise £10,000.00 to record a new album. Thanks to public generosity £14,410.00 was raised. We are absolutely delighted with their success and look forward to the album coming out.

We are pleased to announce that Angharad Morgan (Fortey) has been chosen to understudy the part of Donna Elvra, in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, which is included in Welsh National Opera's programme for the coming season. She will also be performing in the 150th Anniversary, Patron's Concert, of Dunvant Male Choir in Swansea. Sir Bryn Terfel is also a guest artist. Angharad is delighted as this will be her first concert in 2022. We look forward to the time when Angharad, David and Ryan will once more be able to perform at VAN-guard.

Mair

Lent Prayer for Strength and Guidance

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way and guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

Source: Alfred the Great, 9th century

Lectionary Readings



March

2nd

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 15-21

6th

1st Sunday in Lent.

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

13th

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

20th

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

27th

Joshua 5:9-12; ; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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!

LENT LUNCHES

Every Friday During Lent

at Wesley Methodist Church, Crescent Road

**Commencing Friday 4th March
12 noon**

Please support!

ALL WELCOME!

Proceeds to Christian Aid



**We pray for peace and stability in
Ukraine.**



For the Love of a Garden.

Quote: *"If, in our own modest back yards, we can help preserve and treasure our natural world then we will make the world a better place - not just for ourselves but for every living creature."*

Monty Don

Our Garden: During the phases of lockdown those of us lucky enough to have gardens will have found them a source of comfort and delight. In the spring of 2020, I wrote about all the birds and squirrels we are lucky enough to see in our garden. We have continued to feed them through the seasons and have been pleased with our new visitors. During last summer we were able to watch Red Kites circulating over the house. We have seen a pair of them, but our neighbours have seen two pairs at the same time. We have even got to recognise their call so that we could look out for them flying overhead.

Since about November we have been delighted to have a Jay coming to the bird feeders. John has been able to take photographs of this stunningly beautiful bird. Our goldfish have even produced young, and it is lovely to see them. It is the first time it has happened in almost 30 years!

Mair



LENT

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
 To eat when I would fast,
 To know when slender strength is spent,
 Take shelter from the blast
 When I would run with wind and rain,
 To sleep when I would watch.
 It is my Lent to smile at pain
 But not ignore its touch.
 It is my Lent to listen well
 When I would be alone,
 To talk when I would rather dwell
 In silence, turn from none
 Who call on me, to try to see
 That what is truly meant
 Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
 It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

Madeleine L'Engle



Composers

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

GERSHWIN	SIBELIUS	BIZET	WAGNER	
BACH	GRIEG	ARNE	BARTOK	BLISS
ARNOLD	BRAHMS	VERDI	DEBUSSY	BYRD
PARRY	BEETHOVEN	ELGAR	DELIUS	HANDEL
MOZART	HAYDN	LISZT	HOLST	

Young Wives

Dear friends,

As promised, we hope to commence Young Wives on Monday 7th March at 7.30pm, in the school room of the church. Please wear a mask.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide refreshment as we usually do, owing to Covid restrictions, however, I am sure that we will have an enjoyable get together.

Looking forward to seeing all our friends again.

Carol.



SAD NEWS

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Dorothy Woodward. Dorothy was a wonderful, dedicated member of the church for many years, always cheerful and supportive. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

Funeral at Van Road. Tuesday 8th March, 12.15pm.



We hold in our prayers -



Frank Frayling

Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland

Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth

John and Mair Wade

Family and friends of Dorothy Woodward

Judy and Rod Jarman

Finn and family

Margaret Webb

Teachers and children.

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 affected by the storms and gales.

Those who have lost their employment and those fearful for their jobs and struggling with the rising cost of living.

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, particularly the people of Ukraine.

Those people helping to welcome and settle refugees.

All in Madagascar affected by the recent cyclones

CHURCH ELDERS

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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)



Remember the little things.

St. David