

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
APRIL 2022

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★ An Elder writes ...



How pleased some of us are now to be able to leave our masks off and breathe more easily; many will remember when I had trouble breathing when just walking down the street or up the stairs.

During that time I was given the new prayer hand book. On opening it at random I read these words.

Breathe

Here we are
Here we stand
At one with sky and sea and land
At one with earth and all therein
Close your eyes
And breathe life in.

Draw deeply now upon the air
Make every breath a silent prayer
From heart, from soul,
From deep within
Close your eyes
And breathe life in.

**So close your eyes, and breathe life in
Let life abundant flow
Sustained, renewed, by unseen hand,
With all the earth, and all therein,
Let's pause awhile
And breathe life in.**

(Taken from page 180 prayer hand book)

Just one of the ways God speaks to us.

Phyllis



BIG DAY OUT!

Saturday 25th June

At the Royal Welsh Showground

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

WORLD EARTH DAY—22nd April

<https://www.earthday.org>

From the Editor

It is so easy to understand why Spring brings so much pleasure. Our hearts cannot fail to lift when we encounter the abundance and variety of flowers, blossom, signs of new growth, young animals and so forth (and hopefully, more sunshine.)

I love hearing the birds, their never ending songs; their melodies competing with each other.

The joy we feel, however, is tempered with great sadness when we reflect on the people who do not have the luxury of appreciating the season. It is heart breaking to see what our brothers and sisters in such places as, Ukraine and Afghanistan are suffering and the distress and fear experienced by those fleeing the conflict.

Lent has been a time of reflection culminating in the reminder of the atrocious, inhumane treatment of Jesus by His enemies. Tragically there are still those in the world who continue to treat people abominably, lacking basic love and respect for humankind.

As Christians we cling to the knowledge that Christ triumphed over evil -

'His light shone in the darkness, and the darkness could not put it out.'

We pray that everything will be done so that love will prevail.

Easter Blessings,

Diane

Young Wives

At last, on Monday 7th March, Young Wives held their first meeting for two years. It was well attended, which was very encouraging and lovely to see everyone after such a long time.

It was decided to resume meeting every week at 7.30 p.m. but not to book speakers until September which would give us time to get back into some sort of normality.

The meetings for April are as follows:-

4 April – TBA

11 April – No meeting

18 April – No meeting

25 April - AGM

Carolyn



CAERPHILLY FOOD BANK

Box for donations of food, toiletries etc. at back of the church.

Pasta and beans are not needed at the moment, thank you!

Worship



April

- 3rd, 10.30 am** **Rev Malcolm Shapland**
Communion
- 10th, 10.30am** **Palm Sunday**
Mr Richard and Mrs Sarah Edwards
- 17th, 10.30am** **Easter**
Mr Rob Moverley
Communion
- 24th, 10.30am** **Mr Trevor Grant (Leprosy Mission)**
Fellowship lunch in aid of Leprosy
Mission to follow the service

Mid-month Communion



13th April, 10.30am
Rev. Malcolm Shapland

EASTER SERVICES

- April 14th** **7pm Maundy Thursday**
St Martin's Church
- April 15th** **10.30am Good Friday**
Mount Carmel

Lectionary Readings



April

- 3rd** **Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126**
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- 10th** **Palm Sunday**
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
- 11th** **Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11;**
Hebrews 9:11-16; John 12:1-11
- 12th** **Isaiah 49:1-7 ; Psalm 71:1-14;**
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36
- 13th** **Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70;**
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32
- 14th** **Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;**
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- 15th** **Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;**
Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
- 16th** **Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16;**
1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66
- 17th** **Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;**
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18
- 24th** **Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118: 14-29;**
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

LENT LUNCHES

Every Friday During Lent

**at Wesley Methodist Church, Crescent Road
12 noon**

Last lunch April 8th

Please support!

ALL WELCOME!

Proceeds to Christian Aid



**We pray for peace and stability in
Ukraine and for those fleeing
from war**



The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

April Update:

The University of the Third Age (U3A) returned on Friday 4th March and were delighted with the numbers that attended which included new members. The Caerphilly Community Chorus have delayed their search for a new Musical Director until September. We send our good wishes for the future to Mr Tomos Gwyn as he leaves the Chorus in April.

We are pleased that Goldies will be returning on Monday 11th April at 11.00 a.m. This will be a welcome return and will start half an hour later than the former meeting time. After many years we will be saying goodbye to our leader Carol Pegler who is retiring. We shall miss her very much. Carol has been a joy to work with and a good friend to VAN-guard. We were delighted when the Patrick Sheen Singers, a Ladies Choir in Ebbw Vale, of which Carol is a member and solo singer, gave two performances at VAN-guard. She and her husband Steve hope to join us for future concerts. Our temporary leader will be Rachel Parry, the Regional Director of Goldies Cymru. Rachel led the group in VAN-guard for a couple of years prior to Carol's appointment and knows us very well.

Currently, the Caerphilly Wind and Strings will not be rehearsing at VAN-guard but will be giving a lunchtime concert in aid of VAN-guard on Friday 8th July at 1.00 p.m. A date for your diary. We hope there will soon be other such concert notices to follow.

Recent rehearsals sessions: Matthew Tilley, a local opera singer, who has often sung at VAN-guard and Only Men Aloud.

Mair

EASTER FUNNIES

- Where does Christmas come before Easter?
The dictionary!
- What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear?
14 Carrot Gold
- What do you call the Easter Bunny the day after Easter?
Eggshasted
- What's the best way to make Easter easier?
Put an "i" where the "t" is.
- What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school?
He was eggspelled!
- Why wouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?
Because he might crack up.
- How does Easter end?
With an R

News from the Spring Synod

Spring Synod took place over Zoom at the beginning of March.

One of the main areas of discussion was the paper on Ministry. We were asked to consider whether this paper (with some changes as result of feedback from local churches) could be adopted as part of the Synod Deployment policy. There was an opportunity to feedback comments I had received from Church members in small groups. This also included constructive discussion about the proposal which was then agreed.

The Synod is active in implementing its policy of being an Eco Church and there were a number of presentations on the subject of Eco Church. As part of this policy local churches are being encouraged to explore their own green agendas, and Synod offers them resources to help them. For example, each local Church has now been given an Eco Box with resources to encourage and enable us to respond to God's invitation to care for creation. There will be more of this over the next few months. We were also given a presentation on how to calculate the Church's carbon footprint and possibly consider offsetting this by contribution to projects such as tree planting.

On Finance, we agree a balanced budget for 2023 for the Synod. Chris Atherton, the Synod treasurer was also pleased to report that during 2021 the contributions from member churches in the Wales Synod to the Ministry and Mission fund were sufficient to cover the costs of ministry provided in Wales. This is a first in my lifetime!

We were also reminded of the Synod's Big Day Out in June at the Royal Welsh Show Ground near Builth Wells when we will be celebrating 50 years of the URC. A bus will be collecting from Nantgarw for anyone wishing to go. As part of the URC Celebrations there is also a free booklet 'Celebrate Together' which is available for all members and friends associated with the URC giving some background to our Church and its life. A number of these are on order and will be available soon.

Rob Moverley

From 'Now the Green Blade Riseth'

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain,
Love lives again, that with the dead has been,
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Then your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been,
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

John Macloed Cambell Crum (1872-1958)

CULTIVATING A HEART FOR GOD'S CREATION

ECO BOX REFLECTIONS FOR APRIL

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24)

Ponder

Thomas Merton wrote in 'Seeds of Contemplation' :

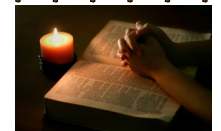
"A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying [God]. It "consents," so to speak, to [God's] creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree"

LET US PRAY

Read 2 Cor 5:14 -21

God of new life, help us to die to self. God of new life, in Christ you reconciled the whole of creation to you. God of new life, help us to live for Christ.

God of new life, may we fulfil your ministry of reconciliation by living carefully in this beautiful world. For Christ's sake, Amen



Ponder some more . . .

Think of the fruit tree, any fruit tree. The fruit tree freely
GIVES of itself –

it stands firmly rooted and its branches reach out into the world offering goodness, freely, to anyone who will take it. What if this was an image of the church? Giving, giving and giving again, year after year, time after time, because through the giving of itself, of its fruit, the tree plants the seeds of new life, new fruit trees grow, new branches develop, and new fruit comes forth. So it is with the kingdom of God. The Church that gives of itself, that reaches out into the world with life giving goodness will fulfil its purpose in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, giving glory to God.

Get Active:

- Prune some of your 'non-eco' habits and replace them with new life giving habits.
- Give new life to old stuff
- recycle and reuse.
- Plant a fruit tree and give thanks for its gifts.
- Check out Countryfile's website, in particular its section on
- How to live a greener life"

SOME PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE FROM ATTENDEES AT THE LENT LUNCH ON 11th MARCH

- Lord Jesus you said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me.' Let them come here.
- For resolve to share and respect the truth
- God hear my prayer for all the people of Ukraine and the world.
- For the folk of Ukraine and the everyday folk of Russia that peace may come for them; that Authorities will realise that warfare is not the answer. Be with all those taken into homes.
- Please pray for children and the vulnerable that peace will come and leaders will work to this end.
- Lord, comfort all parents who have lost their children and bless all orphans.
- Lord, give courage to the people of Ukraine, Guide them to safety and be with them in their hour of need.
- Oh, Lord, hear our prayer as we remember the people of Ukraine, all who have to leave their homes and livelihoods and for those who felt the need to take up arms.
- Lord, we pray that love and justice will prevail.



EASTER SEASON

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

HE IS RISEN	TEMPTATIONS	SAVIOUR	JESUS
MARY MAGDALENE	CRUCIFIXION	CROSS	
TRIAL	SUNDAY	EASTER	MOTHER LOVE
FRIDAY	SORROW	SUFFERING	PEACE JOY
NEW LIFE	ANGEL	GARDEN	TOMB

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	
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

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

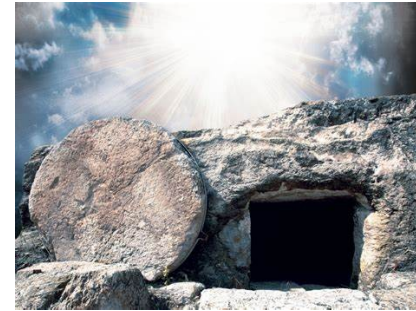
Any items for the next edition should be
submitted by the 19th of the month

to

Mrs Diane Moverley

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



Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!