

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
MAY 2022

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 ☆ **An Elder writes ...** ☆
 ☆ The months come round very quickly and this time quicker ☆
 ☆ than usual, I had decided what I was going to write for ☆
 ☆ June's Inform and then I was asked to do May's issue ☆
 ☆ instead, it threw me a little but once I got my head around it ☆
 ☆ I was fine. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ May is quite an odd month in our church calendar, since the ☆
 ☆ turn of the year we have had so many different periods in ☆
 ☆ each month starting with Epiphany then Lent leading us into ☆
 ☆ Easter, then comes May. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ We always have Christian Aid week so I suppose we can ☆
 ☆ class that as a Christian event this is followed by Pentecost, ☆
 ☆ another great event in our Christian calendar. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ So after being asked to do something for May, I started ☆
 ☆ thinking about what I might write, I went to bed that night ☆
 ☆ and in my prayers I asked God what he thought and for no ☆
 ☆ real reason the words of the song, "I Believe", came into my ☆
 ☆ head. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ I always remember being in Bible Study for Lent. It was ☆
 ☆ during the time all the churches came together. A question ☆
 ☆ was asked, "What song inspires you more than any other ☆
 ☆ and why that song?", My reply was, ☆
 ☆ "Have you ever listened to the words of, 'I Believe?'" ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ Everything that God created is in that song; it isn't really the ☆
 ☆ music, although it is nice, but it's the words, they touch ☆
 ☆ every part of life, I know lots of people only like certain ☆
 ☆ hymns for the tune if its well known. One of my favourites is ☆
 ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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 ☆ 'Great is Thy Faithfulness,' not for the music but for the ☆
 ☆ words. The hymn gives you everything, It inspires you to ☆
 ☆ give your faithfulness back to God. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ I know my faith has helped me through the ups and downs ☆
 ☆ of life and I am blessed to have a great faith in the Lord. I ☆
 ☆ know he can't put all the wrongs we see happening around ☆
 ☆ us, right, but with prayers, hope and love for each other as ☆
 ☆ Christian people we must remember he is always there to ☆
 ☆ listen. We may not get the answer we want, we may not ☆
 ☆ even get an answer but somewhere along the way, "I ☆
 ☆ believe" he has heard and listened to me when I pray. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ My hope is for peace throughout the whole world and that ☆
 ☆ everyone will feel the spirit and love of God. ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ **'I Believe' by Frankie Lane** ☆
 ☆ I believe for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows ☆
 ☆ I believe that somewhere in the darkest night a candle ☆
 ☆ glows ☆
 ☆ I believe for everyone who goes astray ☆
 ☆ Someone will come to show the way ☆
 ☆ I believe, I believe ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ I believe above the storm the smallest prayer will still be ☆
 ☆ heard ☆
 ☆ I believe that someone in the great somewhere hears every ☆
 ☆ word ☆
 ☆ Every time I hear a new-born baby cry ☆
 ☆ Or touch a leaf or see the sky ☆
 ☆ I believe, I believe ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ I believe the lord in heaven, he is my guide ☆
 ☆ ☆
 ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Worship



May

1st, 10.30 am Rev Malcolm Shapland
Communion

8th, 10.30am Dr David Jenkins

15th, 10.30am No service (10k run) *

22nd, 10.30am? TBC

29th, 10.30am Mr Lewis Lewis-Head

Mid-month Communion

11th May, 10.30am
Rev. Malcolm Shapland



*Alternative Worship can be found at
daily.devotions.urc.org.uk

BIG DAY OUT!

Saturday 25th June

At the Royal Welsh Showground

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

Lectionary Readings



May

1st Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

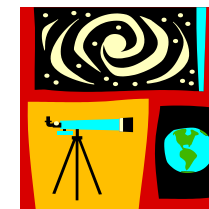
8th Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

15th Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148;
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

22nd Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

26th Ascension Day Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

29th Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12-14; John 17:20-26



LENT LUNCHES

Many thanks to all that supported the lunches.
£847.93 was raised for Christian Aid



ELDERS NEWS

We say a great big Thank you to Kathy Vernalls for her service to Elders and the church as a whole and welcome Dr Peter Speakman to Eldership.

We pray for peace and stability in Ukraine and for those fleeing from war and those trying to help them.



The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

May Update:

The Goldies Cymru group met for the first time after lockdowns on 11th April. It was good to be back but sorry to say goodbye to our leader of 9 years Carol Pegler. We were few in number because the publicity posters were a little late arriving as the Welsh regional groups started to get back together. Nevertheless, it was a happy occasion as always and we enjoyed our sing along to the songs we knew years ago. If you know of anyone who might like to come along, they will be very welcome. It is only an hour a month, on the second Monday of the month at 11.00 a.m. Rachel Parry, our former group leader will return to lead the group. Leaflets are available if you know someone you might give one to.

The Caerphilly 'Only Boys Aloud' rehearsed with the Cardiff group before Easter prior to a performance with other OBA groups for the launch of a new song composed by Tim Rhys Evans. Now they need to grow their numbers because some of the boys outgrew the age limit of 11-19 years during the lockdowns. Rehearsals continued through lockdowns on zoom, but sadly some OBA choristers went through their time with OBA without having performed in a concert because of the pandemic. Their 10th Anniversary concert was due to have taken place in November 2020, but now we hope it will happen this coming July, which will be the third date for the anniversary concert. It will be conducted by Mr. Tim Rhys Evans at St. David's Hall in Cardiff.

Tim Rhys Evans is now Director of Music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, but always planned to conduct the boys for this special long-awaited event. Currently the Only Boys Aloud, Only Girls Aloud and Only Kids Aloud are preparing to record a new album later this month. Should you know any young lads who might be interested then David Fortey would be pleased to meet them. There are no auditions to join. They rehearse on Monday evenings from 6.30-8.30 p.m. during term times.

The Caerphilly Community Chorus holds practice sessions on Friday evenings at 7.30 p.m. At present they will continue without a regular director of music. We hope they will appoint a successor to Mr Tomos Gwyn in the autumn and wish them well with that task. In the meantime, we send our best wishes to Tomos as he continues with his other music responsibilities.

The University of the Third age will return downstairs for their next meeting on 6th May. They always have interesting speakers on varied topics at their meetings which begin with registration at 1.30 p.m., and a talk at 2.00p.m. They also hold a variety of interest groups at various locations in Caerphilly with meetings held on different days and at contrasting times. Anyone interested can make contact through their web site or come along to one of the Friday meetings. They meet on the first Friday of each month except for the month of August when there is no meeting.

Mr. Wayne David M.P. held a constituency surgery at VAN-guard at the end of April.

Mair



Valleys Pastorate News

It was with great disappointment we heard the news the Sharmann's request for a Visa to visit the Valleys Pastorate was rejected by the Home Office. Despite this setback, Sharmann is still feels called to the pastorate and the elders are currently exploring alternative ways of conducting the introduction process.

We pray for him and his family and also the elders of the pastorate as we consider the way ahead.

Veronica's 100th Birthday

Veronica Moverley wishes to thank everyone for their birthday wishes, cards and donations to the Red Cross.

To date the total is over £1900

She had a wonderful time!

Concert Announcement

Please look out for posters concerning the first concert back in VAN-guard when the Caerphilly Wind and Strings will perform on **Friday 8th July at 1.00p.m.**

We will be pleased to provide any further information:

Telephone 02920 866578 or email
mairjohn365@gmail.com

Mair.

AFRICA

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

ZIMBABWE	SOUTH AFRICA	ANGOLA	ZAMBIA
BURKINA FASO	ZAMBIA	NAMIBIA	GABON
RWANDA	MALAWI	LIBYA	SIERRA LEONNE
TOGO	MADAGASCAR	ETHIOPIA	SUDAN
SOMALIA	TANZANIA	CHAD	

CULTIVATING A HEART FOR GOD'S CREATION

ECO BOX REFLECTIONS FOR MAY

JOURNEYING

Get Strolling

You will not be surprised to read that walking is the primary mode of transport in the Bible. There are also other means of transport, donkeys, horses, camels, wagons, chariots, and of course, the Queen of Sheba came through the desert with a train and the Lord's train filled the temple! But walking is most popular and even God participates. In Genesis God walks in the Garden and Enoch, Noah and others 'walked with God' So go on, reflect together what does it mean to be someone who, "walks with God"?

How is your walk with God going at the moment?

Let us pray:

Ponder these ways and use them to pray for yourself, your family and friends, your community and our world. In the Old Testament there are references to "Walking in the ways of . . . Righteousness, Justice, Integrity and Wisdom."

In the New Testament there are references to "Walking in . . . Obedience, Truth, Love, Light and by the Spirit".



Get Active:

Go for a walk, look around you at God's creation. Give thanks for what you see and know that God is walking with you. Calculate your carbon footprint with Climate Stewards at:
www.climatestewards.org/offset.



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH?

Christian Aid Week 15th - 22nd May

Christian Aid will be focusing this year on rural Zimbabwe where seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living and provide for their children. But with no rain, they can't grow enough food. Christian Aid Week follows the lives of resilient women who are standing strong against the threat of drought.

Letters for Creation

Throughout 2021 - 2022 Christian Aid is inviting children and young people to share their views on climate change in a creative project called Letters for Creation. Schools and churches are invited to hold Letters for Creation exhibitions - and to create their own artworks - so that the prophetic voices of children and young people can be heard.



HOPE IS IN THE EYES OF JESSICA IN RURAL ZIMBABWE

Jessica Mwedzi smiles with love for her children as she stirs a single bowl of porridge for them...

But she knows they're hungry for more. This one bowl of porridge is all she and her family can eat today: 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide. We often go to bed on an empty stomach. It pains me to send them to bed hungry.'

For Jessica, drought means every day is a struggle for survival.

Like many women in rural Zimbabwe - 7 out of 10 rely on farming for income and food - she toils on her farm, but nothing can grow on her ashen, dry land.

Drought starves. Intensified by the climate crisis, and the effects of war in Ukraine on global food production, it drives families into hunger. Jessica recalls that-

'One year, we had no rain. The scorching sun burnt my crops just as they were about to bloom. It was so painful and disheartening.'

It's unjust that drought - exacerbated by the effects of conflict and the global pandemic - robs Jessica of the power to provide for her family. Her husband is unwell, so she's the only breadwinner. Her children look up to her, but she has nothing left to give.

ACTION

Jessica could grow drought-resistant crops, set up water taps on her farm, learn how to grow food in the harsh climate.

Her dry, dusty land could transform into a garden of hope, abundant with fresh food like tomatoes, beans and cucumbers.

She'll be proud of the fruits of her work, and she'll see her children enjoy their first full meal in months

JESSICA AND HER FAMILY WALK HOME AT SUNSET



As the golden sun fades across the sky, Jessica watches her much-loved sons and daughters sing, dance and play outside. Can you imagine how it feels for her to know her children are hungry, but have nothing left to give?

She finds a ray of hope that she will overcome this tough time - and be able to provide her children with good food, and a full life, free from hunger.

Could you give today, and help this loving mum provide food and hope for her family?

Jessica is anything but helpless. In the face of drought, her love for her family gives her courage to stand strong - and we stand with Jessica.

'My children give me the power to go ahead. I pray they have a better future.'

(Information from the Christian Aid Website.)

We hold in our prayers -

Frank Frayling

Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland

Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth

John and Mair Wade

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 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.

Charities such as Christian Aid as they set about helping those in need.

Rev. Sharmonn Moromo and The Valleys Pastorate



CHURCH ELDERS

Mrs Enfys Hawthorn 02920 866840
Ms Lynda Jones 02920 884022
Mr Robert Moverley 02920 866336
Dr. Peter Speakman 02920 883968
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)



**And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?
My only hope is in you!**

Psalm 39:7