

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
July/August 2022

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An Elder writes ...

How would you react to the following news article?

HOSPITAL PATIENT ASKED TO COOK FOR MEDICS

Mary Jones was astonished when doctors at Grimthorp General Hospital told her she was ready to be discharged but first would she pop into the hospital kitchens and cook meals for the tired and hungry staff on her ward

You may well think this is outrageous but....hold on. There is a very similar incident recounted in all three of the synoptic gospels.

After a long, tiring day teaching in a synagogue, Jesus with perhaps James and John went to Peter's house where they found the mother-in-law seriously ill in bed with a high fever. Jesus healed her and she immediately got up and proceeded to serve him with food. Oops!! There must be more to the story than this. Surely the gospel writers did not intend to imply that Jesus healed her simply because he needed her to cook for him. The problem is that the gospel accounts are written in a terse, deadpan fashion with not the slightest focus on the woman. She is not even named and is never mentioned again. I confess that I feel the writers failed by not emphasising that she ministered to Jesus. His human side did suffer tiredness and physical hunger and needed to be adequately fed.

What an important type of ministry this was and still is today. In so many churches worldwide there are people (mainly, but not exclusively, women) who provide drinks and snacks for worshippers, cook fellowship meals from time to time and apply themselves to tidying, cleaning, sweeping, polishing and dusting

to ensure that places of worship are sparkling and welcoming.

It happens that people come forward to thank priests and lay preachers for the Sunday worship and thank organists and pianists for the music provided. But how often do we fail to thank someone for the polished floor? For the dusted seating? For the hot drink on a cold Sunday?

Let's give a silent cheer for the splendid ministry of Peter's Mother-in-law and for all who follow in the same vein and deserve our thanks and admiration.

Peter



CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 6th July

10.30am

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

**This month in aid of
Motor Neuron Disease**

ALL WELCOME!



From the Editor

It was a joy to wander around churches and to admire the fantastic flower displays and have time to chat to others that we would not usually have the opportunity to do so. Every church building is different and it was wonderful to see how imaginative and creative each congregation had been in arranging their displays. Every church gave a welcome to all that came through their doors.

It is wonderful when Christians take such opportunities to engage with each other and the community at large. It is a way we can reach out and let residents and visitors to Caerffili see inside our churches and meet with us in a relaxing and unchallenging way.

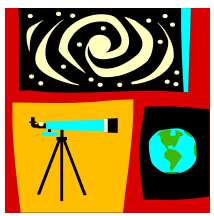
It is one way of 'being church.'

Let us take time over the summer to consider perhaps how we can engage with our communities and with other Christians.

Also, take time to look at the ECO pages in Inform and see just what we can do to show a commitment to caring for the environment and try to modify our lifestyle to do our bit for the environment and climate change.

I wish you a peaceful and rewarding summertime whether going away or staying at home.

God Bless!
Diane



Young Wives

The Young Wives Group are not meeting in July and August. The next planned meeting is on 12 September at 7.30 p.m. This will be the usual 'Business and Biscuits' meeting to commence the Autumn Session.

It has been lovely to be back and many thanks to all the members who have contributed to our 'in house' evenings. The attendance has been very encouraging and we look forward to sharing fellowship and friendship again in September.

Every blessing,
Carolyn



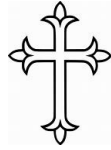
CAERPHELLY FOOD BANK

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

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



Worship



July

- 3rd, 10.30 am** **Rev Malcolm Shapland
Communion**
- 10th, 10.30am** **Mr Lewis Lewis-Head**
- 17th, 10.30am** **Mr Patrick Thomas**
- 24th, 10.30am** **Dr Peter Speakman**
- 31st, 10.30am** **TBA**

August

- 7th, 10.30am** **Mr Dave Clarke**
- 14th, 10.30am** **Ms Lynda Jones**
- 21st, 10.30am** **Mr Richard and Mrs Sarah Edwards**
- 28th, 10.30am** **Rev Gareth Dyer (Bank Holiday)**

Mid-month Communion

**13th July, 10.30am
10th August
Rev. Malcolm Shapland**

(TBC)



Lectionary Readings

July

- 3rd** 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 10th** Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
- 17th** Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
- 24th** Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13
- 31st** Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21



Lectionary Readings

August

- 7th Isaiah 1:1,10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
- 14th Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19;
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
- 21st Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17
- 28th Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14



**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

July and August 2022 Report

20th Anniversary Year

Group reports:

**'Only Boys Aloud' -Meeting time -
EVERY MONDAY 6.30-8.30 p.m. during term time.**

O.B.A. will celebrate their 10th Anniversary, albeit 2 years late, at St David's Hall in Cardiff on 3rd July. They will be joined by the newly formed 'Girls Aloud Choir' and the reinstated 'Only Kids Aloud' group.

**U3A. Meeting Time FIRST Friday of the month
1.30-3.30p.m. except August.**

In June members enjoyed a talk from the 'Dogs Trust' at their June meeting. In July there will be a talk on 'Blood Bikes.' There is no meeting in August.

**The Caerphilly Community Chorus meet EVERY FRIDAY
7.30-9.00 p.m.**

The Choir will break up for the summer on 15th July and resume on 9th September.

**GOLDIES CYMRU meet on 2nd MONDAY of each month
11.00a.m. -12noon all year. Next meetings are on 11th
July and 8th August.** If you know of anyone who enjoys a sing along or who would benefit from some company for an hour, please let them know about the group.

ALSO

Only Men Aloud' rehearsed on 9th June prior to their concert in Cardiff Castle on 10th June when they backed Diana Ross. Further rehearsal dates are planned.

Mr. Wayne David MP held a Constituency Surgery on the afternoon of Friday 24th June.

'VAN-guard' had planned to raise funds for 'Blood Bikes' at its July 2020 Memorial Gala Concert. The next Gala Concert will therefore raise money for this group that provides a great deal of essential backup to the NHS and relies entirely on public donations.

Celebratory events:

Wednesday 1st June at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Morning

It was a great return to the monthly Church Coffee mornings when £100 was raised for the VAN-guard Centre. We are incredibly grateful to Mrs. Margaret Baldwin for generously organising the morning and providing all the lovely homemade cakes. Thanks also to Phyllis, Cathy and John who helped to set up and decorate the room beautifully to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was good to see that the event was attended by folk from the church and community groups.

VAN-guard Centre 20th Anniversary Summer Concerts.

Friday 22nd July at 7.00 p.m. Cardiff Opera perform Mozart's Cosi fan Tutte.

The Music Director: Mr Will Stevens. It will be the first of three performances with the other two performances taking place in The Mission Theatre Bath and The Cotswold Playhouse Stroud. This will be a first for VAN-guard and we hope it will lead to more such events.

Tickets £15/ £5 Students + under 18s available through www.ticketsource.co.uk/cardiff-opera

Saturday 30th July at 11.00 a.m.

'A Feast of Song' Tickets £8.00.

The performance will include a selection of songs and arias by Puccini, Bizet, Meirion Williams, Lehar and Ivor Novello.

This will be a long-awaited return by **Angharad Morgan, Soprano (WNO) with Ryan Wood on piano.** Two great friends who are also good friends to 'VAN-guard' and whose performances are always popular with our audiences. It will be **our first morning concert.**

Autumn concert. We are currently planning a date in October when the Serenata Singers return to give a performance. They were the last group to perform at VAN-guard prior the lockdown in March 2020. Their pianist/music director is Giodano Ferlan, who has given recitals here.

N.B. Room Booking information:

The acoustics are excellent for performers. As a result, it is regularly booked for music recordings, practices and rehearsals by various individuals and groups.

11th -15th July and 18th - 22nd July Cardiff Opera have booked the first floor for rehearsals from 10.00 a.m-6.00 p.m. excluding Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July.

P.S.

Please note the concert advertised in previous issues of INFORM for 8th July 'Caerphilly Wind and Strings' has been cancelled.

We are grateful to Mr. Nigel Jones for arranging previous concerts with the group which were highly successful and greatly enjoyed.

We are always pleased to provide any further information: Telephone 02920 866578 or email mairjohn365@gmail.com

Mair.



ECO BOX—CULTIVATING A HEART FOR GOD'S CREATION

Plastics

'As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honour.'

(Ecclesiastes 10:1)

Human Creativity

From Tubal-Cain mixing elements to make bronze in Genesis 4 to Lydia mixing fibres and snail shells, with perhaps a bit of madder root to make her purple cloth, the Bible is full of clever craftspeople messing and mixing the ingredients of God's creation in order to create ever more new composite materials for every kind of use you can think of. For better or for worse.

The quote above from Ecclesiastes 10:1 reflects on the truth that a small bit of foolishness can greatly overshadow any wisdom. So it is then, that in our wisdom we can split an atom and because of our foolishness we cause mass destruction. In our wisdom we refine oil into monomers, then use polymerisation to create complex chains resulting in plastic, from the Greek word Plastikos which means, "can be moulded," and it sure can. Plastic is everywhere, absolutely everywhere! In our folly we are clogging up life, and destroying environments, and killing wildlife in their millions.

"God saw that it was good . . . God saw all that he had created and it was very good!" (Gen 1)

Let us pray:

Creator God, who made human beings in your own creative image, forgive us our folly, our arrogance in our relationship with your good creation. Forgive us for the way we take life and living things for granted.

Forgive us for the ways we exploit your creation and by making 'dead flies' we turn your perfume into a sickly odour, polluting the oceans and destroying the earth. In Jesus name, Amen!

Get Active: Get involved with 'Plastic Free July', let this be the beginning of the way you use plastic in your life.

<https://youtu.be/ByayHG5CscE>

- Recycle and reuse the existing plastic in your home.
- Think twice before buying anything packaged or made out of plastic.
- Celebrate all the creativity in your church, get people to bring things they have made and create a service of thanksgiving to God for all that is GOOD.

Plastic Free July <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Why not take a look at the **Marine Conservation Society** website and learn more about their campaigns and fundraising. Visit their amazing online shop as well!

<https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/fundraising-and-events/plastic-free-seas/>

ECO BOX—AUGUST

Holidays

'Six days you shall work and on the seventh, rest.'

(Exodus 34:21)

Timeout!

When you contemplate your holidays, what do you think of? Are you looking to book a flight to foreign climes? Are you looking to laze on the beach all day and party by the pool all night? Would you rather go sight-seeing, travelling around Europe or even a road-trip in Canada, New Zealand or the States? Benidorm or Barbados? Either way you can look forward to long queues, early morning flights, at least 3 hours in a flying tin can with 200 other adventurers. Another hour searching frantically for your suitcase and the delight of 4 hours on a coach, stopping to drop off at every hotel on the way knowing yours is going to be the last one. You finally arrive, middle of the night, exhausted. You just about recover, before you reverse the arrival scenario, arriving home with sun-burn, tummy trouble and some bug you caught on the plane! But, hey! Do not let me put you off.

Maybe it is time to recapture the sense of the Holy Day as being a time of resting not roaming, of chilling not roasting, of having time

to be, rather than somewhere to be. Just be. Just be still . . .

Let us pray:

Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' So they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.' (Mk 6:31)

Lord Jesus, help us to find rest in you. Help us to take 'Sabbath' time weekly. May all our holidays be Holy Days. We pray for all who find no rest or peace in their lives. Help us to help them to 'be still' and to know you.

Amen.

Get Active:

It is not only human beings who need rest, the whole of creation needs time out too. Lock downs changed many habits, including the desire to travel great distances for holidays. Why not try . . .

-Looking to holiday closer to home.

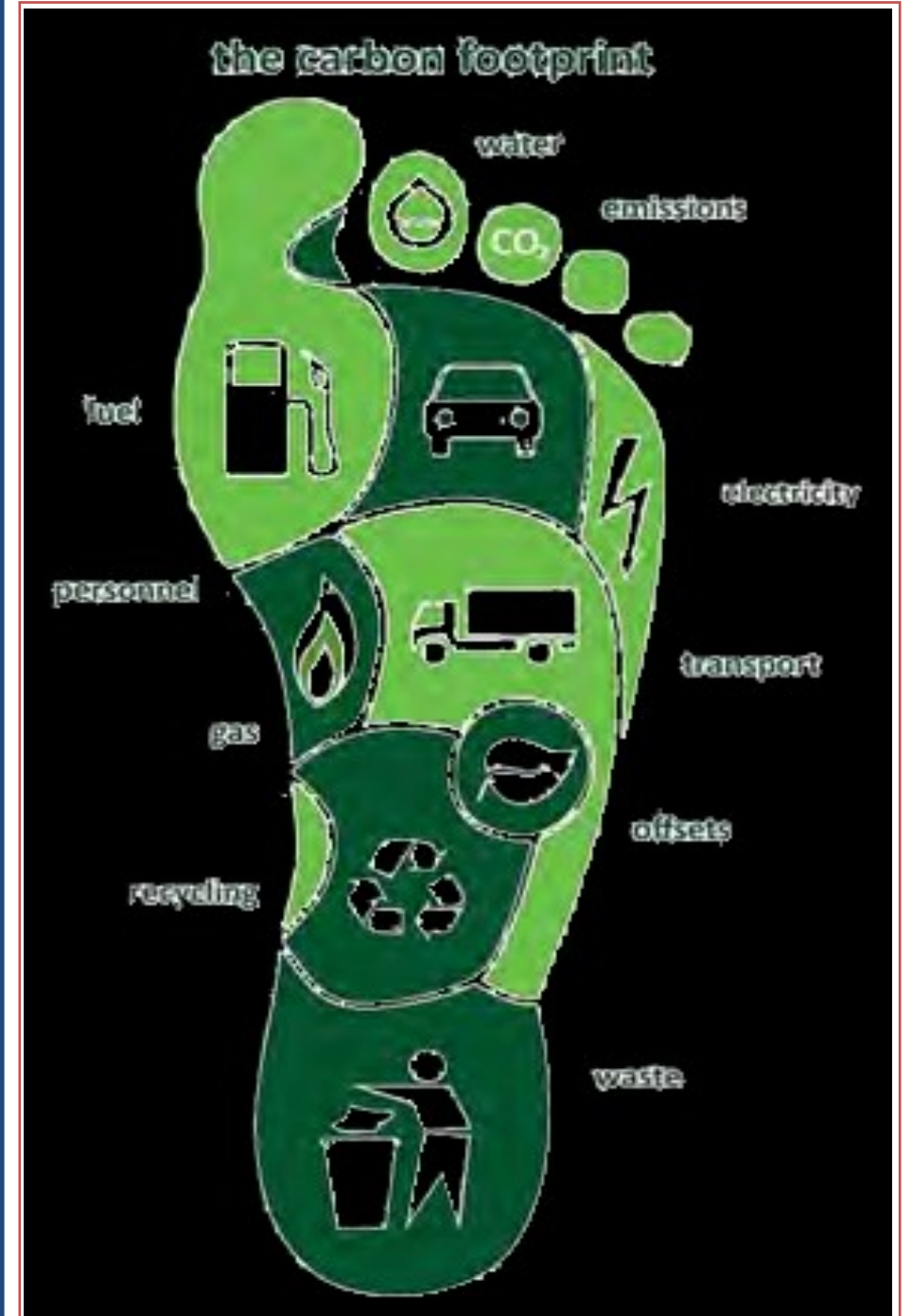
-Discovering your holiday carbon footprint and trying to reduce it. Remember the calculator is at -

www.climatestewards.org

-Take up the discipline of taking time out with God every week.

Climate Stewards helps you to measure your carbon footprint across categories including flights, driving, public transport, home energy, food and household expenditure. You can look at ideas for reducing your footprint and then compensating for your unavoidable emissions (offsetting) in global community carbon

projects. **<https://www.climatestewards.org/>**





Valleys Pastorate News Update

Rev Sharmann Moromo is currently reapplying for a visa to come to Wales. We will update you when we have any more news.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

A great big

THANK YOU!

To all who contributed in any way to the Festival. The church looked beautiful and the food and refreshments, delicious.

HOLIDAY TIME

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

COUNTRYSIDE MOUNTAINS NATURE RELAX
 BEACH WALK CYCLE CARAVAN TRAVEL
 CRUISE AIR SEA LAKES SUMMER ABROAD
 FAMILY SUN RAIN JOY VALLEYS HOLIDAY

We hold in our prayers -



Frank and Phyllis Frayling

Roy Collins

Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland

Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth

John and Mair Wade



Judy and Rod Jarman

Dennis Pollard

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. Sharmann 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)



**O, Lord, how manifold are thy works, in
wisdom have you made them all, the earth
is full of your riches.**