

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
September 2022

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Secretary

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An Elder writes ...

September is traditionally the month of new beginnings; children and students start school or university. Shoes are bought. New groups, jobs and projects begin. I loved to buy a different pencil case to start the school term.

What does the Bible say about new beginnings? God specializes in new beginnings!

God's Mercies are New Every Morning

Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

To lament is to "cry out in grief." The prophet Jeremiah was lamenting the great sins of Jerusalem. But in the above verse, he finds a ray of hope during his deep sorrow.

We can praise God for this verse every morning. There is no sin that God will not forgive; His love is greater. His mercies are new Every. Single. Morning. God doesn't tire of us coming to say "Forgive me! I have made a mistake again!" Who else but God loves like this?

Spiritual New Beginnings

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"*

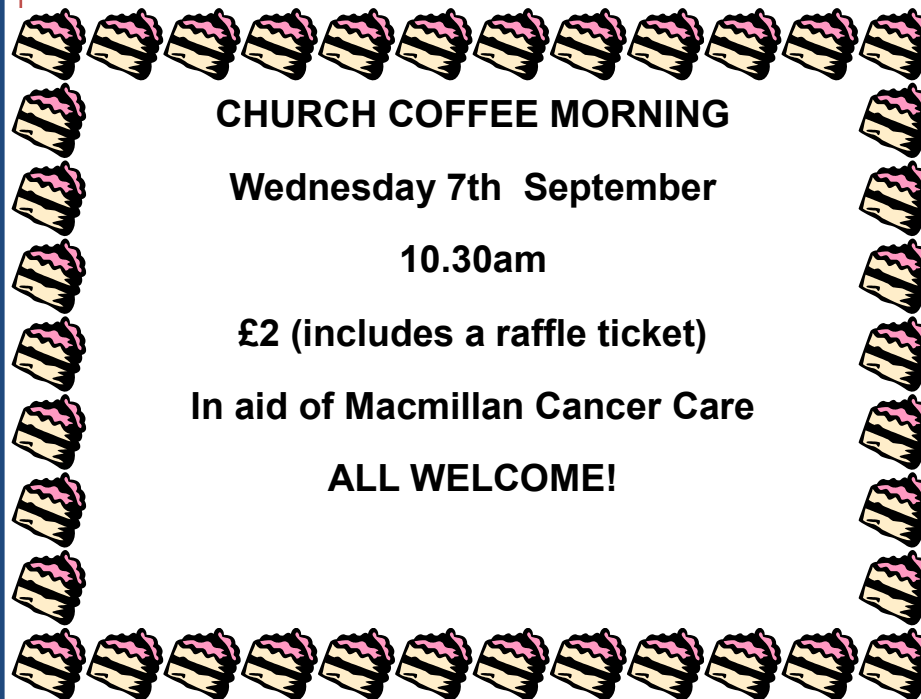
When we become Christians, we are completely new creations. We aren't reworked versions of our old selves or simply have more knowledge of Jesus. We are new creations on the inside- Jesus placed His Holy Spirit within us. We have the Holy Spirit to help us and lead us to live differently and more like Jesus every day.

So, God promises new beginnings for us. He doesn't want us to stay stuck in the past; discouraged and lost. God doesn't want us to do the same either. God longs to make us new every day. So don't try to live on your own strength but rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit living in you and by God-given grace.

So if you will be starting something new this September, God will support, encourage, and strengthen you for any new beginning .



Lynda



CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 7th September

10.30am

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Care

ALL WELCOME!



From the Editor

What A Star!

Well, *he* wouldn't say that, but we all know that Malcolm Shapland has shone bright in ministry for 60 years and continues to do so.

It goes without saying really, that during his ministry he has seen so much and witnessed so much change in the world and also in the church.

We can only marvel that he has continued for so long in dedicated service; for many years in partnership with Barbara, a loving and strong support, by his side.

As a minister he has brought Christ's message to countless numbers of people in many different places and situations and he has done this through love of those he ministers to (some harder to love than others of course.)

We can hardly imagine the challenges he has faced and how he has come through them, but we do know that his love and humour and that twinkle in his eye is still there and we are so grateful for it.

I think it is fitting that eulogies to people should be given before they are no longer with us, so perhaps this 'fits the bill' to some extent.

Sorry, Malcolm if you read this and cringe but our love, admiration and gratitude needs to be expressed.

God Bless you as you have blessed us!

Diane



Young Wives

September

5th No meeting

12th Business and Biscuits

19th Mrs Sally Ball

26th Mr Alan Thorne—American Wild West

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



September

- 4th, 10.30 am **Mr Rob Moverley**
 Communion
- 11th, 10.30am **Mr Lewis Lewis-Head**
- 17th, 10.30am **Mr Patrick Thomas**
- 18th, 10.30am **Rev Robin Wood**
- 25th, 10.30am **TBA**

Mid-month Communion

Wednesday 14th September, 10.30am

Rev. Malcolm Shapland
(TBC)



Lectionary Readings



September

- 4th Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
 Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33
- 11th Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
- 18th Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9;
 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- 25th Jeremiah 32:1-3a; 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;
 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31



Celebratory Service

for

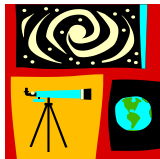
Malcolm Shapland -

60 years in Ministry

At Hope and Market Square, Merthyr

September 24th, 2pm

**Please speak to Margaret C if you are going
and also let her know if you need a lift.**



**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

20th Anniversary Year

September 2022 Report

As we look forward to the autumn events it is first good to report on the first summer activities for three years.

Four church members, who are Trustees of VAN-guard, attended the Aloud Charity Concert 10th Anniversary Concert on 5th July at St. David's Hall Cardiff. It had been delayed for two years from November 2020. It was a wonderful afternoon of young singing talent nurtured in venues across Wales. Caerphilly's Only Boys Aloud choir meets at VAN-guard and has done so for about ten years under the guidance of David Fortey and until recently Niall Allen of Only Men Aloud, and Liz Williams from St. Martin's Comprehensive School. The concert programme involved about 250 singers aged six to nineteen. OBA has an age range of eleven to nineteen and now has eleven groups all over Wales with a total of 180 boys. The Kids Aloud Choir has 60 members, mostly girls, aged six to eleven. The pilot Girls' Choir, which meets in Cardiff, has an age range of eleven to sixteen and certainly seems to be a successful venture with just over seventy members. They performed in their separate groups as well as together. It was a wonderful event, and all credit must go to their tutors, or captains as they are called, and especially to Craig Yates of Only Men Aloud, who has succeeded Mr Tim Rhys Evans as the Music Director of all the Aloud Choirs. It was a privilege to realise that we have a small part in supporting this wonderful youth music.

In the last decade 30,000 young people have been involved, making wonderful memories and lifelong friends. Some have gone on to successful performing careers on the London stage and on television.

VAN-guard Centre 20th Anniversary Concerts.

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

Prior to the performance on 22nd July at VAN-guard, the performers had spent ten days rehearsing at the centre, before going on to give other performances in Bath and Stroud. They were very happy here and loved being in a building with excellent acoustics and space to rehearse different parts in the various rooms. On the night we had about forty people in the audience which was a bit disappointing considering it was the first time we had attempted to host a full opera performance. It was however a superb evening of excellent singing and acting. It was a joy to be reacquainted with two of the performers who had sung here before as half of the singing group, The Champagne Quartet. They felt quite at home and promised they will return to perform as the Champagne Quartet once again. There has been an indication that Cardiff Opera would like to return next summer and repeat the arrangement but with a different opera in mind. The excellent piano is also a great attraction and was tuned prior to and after the time Cardiff Opera was with us. We are fortunate to have the use of the piano for church and VAN-guard activities. For this reason, the centre pays for its maintenance and insurance. In some other venues pianos are hired in for such events e.g. The Machen Music Festival.

Saturday 30th July 'A Feast of Song'

It was so good to be able to hear Angharad Morgan singing here once again. It was her first recital since the pandemic began. She and Ryan Wood wanted to perform here for their first recital because they regard it as their 'music home.' About fifty people attended the first morning concert we have ever held which included folk from Gloucester, Porthcawl, Neath and Maesteg. We were very pleased to welcome them. Sadly, some regular attendees of our concerts are no longer with us and were solely missed. Two new visitors who attended both concerts were the Deputy Lieutenant of Gwent Agnes Xavier-Phillips and her husband Nigel Phillips. They were very happy to join us and enjoyed the very high-quality performances hosted by VAN-guard.

Award

Phyllis's granddaughter Megan is going to Toronto for four months to further her singing career and as part of her third-year studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. VAN-guard was pleased to give Megan an award to help further her studies in Canada. The award comes from a donation to VAN-guard from Caerphilly Town Council. It was agreed that any award made would be to a young person who showed a particular artistic talent and who comes from the Caerphilly Town Council area. Megan ticked all these boxes.

Autumn Activities

This month we welcome back our regular groups and hope that numbers will increase as people get more used to getting out.

The University of the Third Age U3A resume their monthly meetings on 2nd September at 1.30 p.m. when there will be a speaker from Blood Bikes. This will be the next charity which our next Gala Concert will support, and which was originally planned for July 2020.

Caerphilly Community Chorus resume practices from 9th September at 7.30p.m.

Goldies Cymru meet next on 12th September at 11.00 a.m. although we have yet to have a permanent leader. The Charity has lost many leaders since the pandemic lockdowns.

Only Boys Aloud will return on Monday 12th September 6.30-8.30 p.m.

The VAN-Guard Art group will return soon.

Our definite concert bookings to date are:

Saturday evening 15th October the Serenata Singers from Cardiff. They were the last to perform here in March 2020.

Sunday afternoon 18th December ‘Cantare ‘ will once more put us in a joyful mood for Christmas.

Confirmation of further concerts in October will complete our 20th Anniversary Programme.

Art, Crafts and Literature Exhibition - Change of date.

For years, the annual VAN-guard Centre Arts, Crafts and Literature Exhibition has been held in November. The Committee has decided that it will be moved to late Spring 2023 when the weather will hopefully be better. Previously we have been open during chilly days, with pouring rain and wind, which was not conducive to good attendances. It was not pleasant for those who kindly volunteered to Meet and Greet and serve refreshments to visitors who braved the weather. We feel sure that those artists who participate in the exhibition will be pleased with the change of date. They will of course be contacted when a definite exhibition time has been decided upon.

N.B.

There will be Saturdays when auditions and rehearsals will be held here. These bookings will bring in much needed revenue. They will not interfere with the normal activities of the church or VAN-guard. If there are church activities planned of which I am currently unaware, please let me know so that we avoid double booking.

Thankyou

I wish to pass on my thanks to the church for the beautiful flowers and card I received to celebrate my 80th Birthday. It was a lovely surprise. I had a wonderful day as we attended the wedding of my son, Huw and his fiancée, Julie. It became a joint celebration, and I was really spoilt on what turned out to be a very happy day for all of us.

Church building cleaning.

As agreed at the July Church Meeting the cost of cleaning the building will continue to be shared between the Church and VAN-guard. This is separate from the room hire charges paid to the church.

The next Management Committee will be held at 7.00 p.m. on 14th September.

We are always pleased to provide any further information:

Telephone 02920 866578 or email mairjohn365@gmail.com

Mair.

Celebratory Lunch for Malcolm

After service on

Sunday 2nd October

Thankyou!

To those who contributed in memory of Dorothy Woodward, the total was £240.

URC Treasurers' Letter

Dear Friends,

Is anyone back to normal?

After two years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can now worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others considering it.

Now we have significant European turmoil and its likely effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK.

Thank God that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13 v.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and those churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (*if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly*) may have seen a 20%+ drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the M&M Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure the M&M Fund result was a

deficit of only £80,000 (less than one-half of one percent of income), a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves. So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we "ordinary Christians" are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us we need ministers and other workers "on the ground" and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Treasurer)
Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

ECO Box

Cultivating a Heart for God's Creation

Looking towards Harvest



As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22

Give thanks with a grateful heart!

Harvest Festival is a time to focus on the beauty of God's creation and God's provision for us.

Perhaps one of the most sung hymns at Harvest Festival is "WE plough the fields and scatter," but we don't though, do we? When was the last time you did? When did you get your Massey Ferguson out and make lovely straight furrows in your field? Most of us would have to admit that we have never in our lifetime ploughed a field! And yet every year we proclaim that we have.

Are we just lying to ourselves, and to the world, about how we spend our time? Are we in fact asking God to bless something that we have never done? How much more honest and relevant would it be if we were to sing:

"We push our supermarket trollies, and gather all our tins, we use our great tin-opener, and throw it in the bin. Our food it all comes to us, with such a great ease, and most of all we all love: Y Fenni's lovely cheese."

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above
then thank the Lord,
O, thank the Lord,
for all His love.

Now that is relevant!

Let us pray:

God of grace and gift, we thank you for the wonderful provision that we find in all you have made. For the miracle of seed, plant and fruit. As we celebrate these bountiful wonders, we pray for our world to be saved from exploitation and devastation caused by greed and over-farming. We pray for those who endure pressures of an extravagant world and those who work the land and care for our environment.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Get Active:

- Support local farmers, produce, farm shops, butchers, greengrocers, and let them know that you will be praying for them.-

Check out website -

<https://climate.cymru/>

What's on This Month?

Use your LOAF to make a difference

Locally produced, **O**rganically grown, **A**nimal friendly,
Fairly Traded

Loaf placemats and posters from —
info@greenchristian.org.uk

SUNFLOWER AND CHOCOLATE CAKE

150g cooking chocolate

50g cornflakes

25g ready-to-eat sunflower seeds

25g raisins

paper cases

What you do:

Melt the chocolate.

Crush the cornflakes by placing them in a bag and crushing them with a rolling pin.

Add the cornflakes, sunflower seeds and raisins to the melted chocolate and mix well.

Place a spoonful of the mixture into paper cases and leave to cool. Enjoy!



Great Big Green Week

24th September—2nd October

Lots of ideas and resources at -

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Back to School

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

PLAYTIME STUDYING CURRICULUM MUSIC
 GEOGRAPHY HISTORY HOMEWORK MATHS
 ENGLISH CYMRAEG SCIENCE ART GAMES
 TECHNOLOGY LANGUAGES PE EXAMS DESIGN
 DRAMA

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



David and Carolyn Jenkins

Huw and Mary James and family

Judy and Rod Jarman

Dennis and Shelagh 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.

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.

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

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

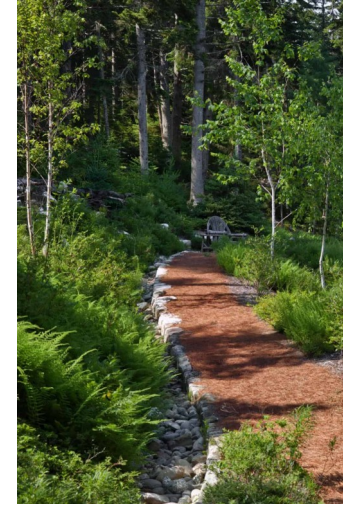
Any items for the next edition should be
submitted by the 19th of the month

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)



Don't be impatient for the Lord to act!

Travel steadily along His path.

Psalm 37:34