INFORM

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URC
VAN ROAD

CAERPHILLY
November 2022

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Secretary

Mrs Margaret Craig

Tel: 02920 867487

E-mail: Margaret_craig@hotmail.co.uk

Church Treasurer

Mr Rob Moverley

Tel: 02920 866336

E-mail: robmoverley60@gmail.com

Pulpit Secretary

Ms Lynda Jones

Tel: 02920 884022

E-mail: lynda.jones0058@gmail.com

Website:

www.vanroadurc.org

An Elder writes ...

Every 6 months I try to attend Synod meeting as Van Rd's representative, either in person, or online. This October it was a hybrid meeting, but I chose to go to Llandrindod Wells for the meeting. It is good to have the opportunity of meeting people face to face and hearing and sharing stories of the life of other United Reformed Churches and people across Wales. We also receive presentations on subjects that Synod have identified as being part of their priorities and debate proposals where decisions are needed from the wider Church.

Some of the things we got up to this October included:

Considered some of the resources offered by Synod to help local Churches explore the ministry of 'The Whole People of God'

Looked at how local Churches can demonstrate they are Safe Spaces for people to meet e.g. by ensuring Safeguarding training and DBS checks are up-to-date, and publishing this information. We also heard how the URC Youth are encouraging Churches to become more aware of Mental Health issues by having a trained Mental Health First Aider.

Recognising the long relationship between Christians in Wales and the Korean Church - it was a Welsh Missionary from the Hanover, Llanover church near Abergavenny that was one of the first to bring Christianity to Korea - we supported the 'Korean Peace Appeal' by agreeing the following motion 'The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales affirms its support for a lasting peace settlement to end the Korean War and instructs the Synod Moderator to sign the Korea Peace Appeal on its behalf.'

We discussed how Synod is encouraging local Churches to work together on environmental issues by linking up and becoming ECO friends.

We recognised a number of ministers in the Synod who had reached significant milestones. The standout of course was our dear friend Malcolm Shapland. Unfortunately, Malcolm was not there in person to receive the accolade due to his Covid.

We were also asked to take back to our own Churches the idea that we should put children at the centre of our Church life, by putting them at the centre of our decision making. This may seem a strange idea for many of our Churches that do not have any young people. However, the idea means, each decision we make we should think about the impact it has on children and young people. (Remind me to consider this whenever I chair a meeting!)

Lastly, we approved the Synod's accounts for 2021 and the budget for 2023. This was important because the budget included a significant provision for the Synod to offer grants to local Churches for up to 50% of their energy costs this winter and a separate grant to support any Church engaging in offering a warm space for people who are struggling to heat their own homes.

Some may think it is an odd way to spend a Saturday. However, the drive through mid Wales at this time of year is glorious, the lunchtime food is great, and it certainly helps me understand that I am part of something much bigger than just being a member of Van Rd Church. I hope you realise that too.

Rob Moverley

From the Editor

Diane





In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved, and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders Fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders Fields. John McCrae

99999999999999 **Young Wives** 🔌 November Safe Families 7th 🥞 14th Quiz - Mr Martin Holdsworth 21st The Development of Porcelain -Mr Alan Cook 😂 28th Santa Drive 999999999999999 CHRISTIAN AID DONATIONS Thank you for the Christian Aid Harvest donations totalling £70. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** There is an opportunity to collect for Christian Aid on Friday 18th November at Tescos, Crossways Park. If you have some time to help please speak to Rob **AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA** Fellowship and Bible Study KMair plans to resume the session on 3rd Novem-🔽 ber at 10.30 a.m.

Worship





6th,10.30 am Rev Malcolm Shapland Communion

13th, 10.30am Rev Peter Noble

20th, 10.30am Ms Lynda Jones

27th, 10.30am Mrs Carol Jones

First Sunday in Advent

Mid-month Communion

Wednesday 9th November, 10.30am

Rev. Malcolm Shapland

TBC



Lectionary Readings

November



6th Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5,17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

13th Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 98;

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

20th Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46;

Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

27th Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



SAD NEWS

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Bill Mallon. Bill was a devoted elder and member at Bethany. He was a valuable member of the joint Elders of the Valleys Pastorate and will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all the folk at Bethany.

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY

URC

Created on 5th October 1972 by the partnership of The Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England.

In 1981 the URC was joined by the Re-formed Association of the Churches of Christ and in 2000 with the Congregational Union of Scotland.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 2nd November

10.30am

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

ALL WELCOME!

Charity Registration number 1109193

November Report

We are pleased to announce that our new web site was launched on 1st October. It is www.vanguardcaerphilly.com We hope people will enjoy looking at a more modern and user-friendly website. It affords links to VAN-guard groups as well as the church.

We are pleased that a recording was made in the building on 18th October. It is not the first time for artists to make recordings for use in auditions, but it is the first time because of the new website, and it involves a new contact.

We are pleased that the final 20th Anniversary Concerts got off to an excellent start. It was the first time for the **Volante Tenors** to perform at VAN-guard, but I doubt it will be the last. We received telephone calls and emails from people who attended to let us know what a superb evening we had missed! John and I were so disappointed not to be able to attend but were delighted that all the performers received a standing ovation. Once again VAN-guard brought to Caerphilly professional performers with very reasonable ticket charges being made.

The **Serenata Autumn Concert** was postponed from the 15th to 22nd. I write in advance of their performance and trust it too will have been a most enjoyable event. Their Music Director Giovanni Ferla is also known to us as a musician in 15th his own right. They were the last singers to perform at the

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centre before the original lockdown in March 2020 and this ightharpoonup will be their first performance since then. They enjoy singing at VAN-guard and we have got to know some of their members who support other VAN-guard events. This concert on 22nd October will be the culmination of the 20th **ンシンシンシンシンシンシンシンシンシン** Anniversary Concerts and we thank those folk who have supported them.

We look toward the end of the year activities commencing with

Sunday evening 27th November

A fundraising concert for Cardiff Opera

A performance by talented artists and an accompanist who is an accomplished repetiteur.

Performers include Caitlin Ellis, soprano; Megan Strachan, soprano; Alexander White, tenor; Adam Brown, baritone, and William Stevens bass-baritone. The programme will include とないないないないないないないないないないない extracts from Mozart's delightful opera the Magic Flute as Cardiff Opera prepare for a future performance of this opera. There will also be other arias and ensemble exerts. The accompanist will be Sian Davies, who accompanied the Cardiff Opera's performance of Cosi fan Tutte in July.

A Christmas weekend of music to come.

Friday 16th December.

The Caerphilly Community Chorus will be holding their Christmas Concert under the baton of their new Music Director Anna Beresford.

Time to be announced later.

Caerphilly Wind and Strings will return under the leadership of Mr. Nigel Jones. Many of us enjoyed previous concerts given by the group and we look forward to this pre-Christmas performance. They are generously donating the proceeds to support the work of the VAN-quard Centre.

Sunday 18th December at 2.00 p.m.

'Cantare at Christmas'. It has become a tradition at VAN-guard to have a performance by Angharad Morgan (WNO Chorus) David Fortey (OMA) and their ever-popular accompanist Ryan Wood to delight us with Christmas music. These are always very special concerts, performed by good friends, which we have enjoyed for about ten years.

Final details will become available about these concerts nearer to the time.

J Mair.



CAERPHILLY FOOD BANK

Many thanks for the Harvest Donations. The weight of produce for Van Road was 33.4kg

Suggestions for donations -

Box at the back of the Church

Tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding, UHT milk, tea, coffee, biscuits, juices / squash, soup, tinned meat and fish, tinned vegetables, pasta / curry sauces.

At the Food bank we like to put in some 'extras' when we have them, for example -

Shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, chocolate / sweets.

Please note that Pasta and beans are not needed at the moment.

Carrier bags also needed.

THANK YOU!



ECO BOX—NOVEMBER

REMEMBERING

I thank God every time I remember you

(Philippians 1:3)

Thinking it through

One of the most poignant World War epitaphs is -

"When you go home, tell them of us and say,

for your tomorrow, We gave our today."

For our present generations, we ought to look back with gratitude to those who gave so much that we might enjoy the world we live in. But we must also look forward, for in our day we are fighting a different kind of war which requires alternative ways to bring victory. We are defending our world, God's creation, against human destructive practices. We find ourselves looking for ever new offensive strategies against the armies of pollutants and those who violate and desecrate the earth. So in the present, what would we be willing to give of ourselves so that future generations look back and can say that we gave our today for their tomorrow?

Read and reflect on what is said about creation in Romans 8:18-30

Let us pray:

Remember and give thanks for those who have given of themselves to create a better world for us to live in.

Remember and give thanks for all whose lives have been selflessly dedicated to caring for God's creation.

Remember that you too are called to care, to give, to serve, that others may have a world which they look at and give thanks for your part in being a good steward and passing it on to future generations as a place that reflects the glory of God.

Get Active:

- Remember to act:

-Nov 6 is the United Nations' International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. Discover more at -

www.un.org/en/observances/environment-in-warprotection -day

- Plant a tree in Remembrance of someone who is special to you.
- COP 27 is taking place in Egypt during November.

Bring it to the attention of your MP, remind them of the promises from COP26.

WE WILL REMEMEMBER THEM!

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE SUMMIT

COP 27 IN EGYPT

7TH - 18TH NOVEMBER

Following the UN climate summit in Glasgow in 2021, A Rocha UK CEO Andy Atkins wrote:

"The success or failure of COP 26 will ultimately depend on what happens next ... What the public, including Christians and Churches, do in the next twelve months could be decisive ... Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke some strong words about climate change - but will the UK government follow through?"

The single biggest thing you can do to tackle climate change is to engage with your MP. You can work with them to support the government's legislation on reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Hope for the Future offers faith groups tailored research, training and ongoing support to build a working relationship

with their MP. For help in preparing for an in-person meeting with your MP, contact -leah.lapautre@hftf.org.uk

For the Fruits of all Creation

Rejoice and Sing no. 42

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CREATION **ASTOUND NATION FUTURE NEED** THANKS BE TO GOD SHARING INHERIT GOOD TRUTH NEIGHBOUR HARVEST WONDERS RFWARD LABOUR **CARING JUST** WILL HUNGRY LOVE NEEDS DONE

We hold in our prayers -

Frank and Phyllis Frayling Family of Nina and Roy Collins



Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth John and Mair Wade

David and Carolyn Jenkins Bill Mallon's family

Huw and Mary James and family

Judy and Rod Jarman Dennis and Shelagh Pollard

Margaret Webb

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 Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia 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 particularly those affected by the floods in Pakistan. And the famine in East Africa

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)





At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.

Lawrence Binyon