

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHELLY**  
**March 2023**

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **Church Secretary**

Mrs Margaret Craig

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## An Elder writes ...

I was about to turn my phone off for Bible Study this morning - a message from Diane reminding me it was my turn to write the Elders' letter. A month later and I would have missed it. It's something I have struggled with over the years. Then an idea - I remember asking Malcolm how he can produce such an interesting prayer and prattle every day and he said, "I just sit quietly and it comes to me," so I sat quietly and it came to me.

I was ordained on the 20th March 2005 when Shelagh was our Minister. Throughout my time as an Elder I have particularly enjoyed the pastoral side of Eldership, calling in for a chat, running errands or catching up on the phone.

A trip down Memory Lane followed: weekends of fellowship in Trefecca, our inspirational visit to Iona, trips to Tenby, BBQs, children's parties etc. How things have changed over the years. Sadly we have lost many of our congregation some have passed away, some moving on; children growing up and leaving home.

Malcolm became our Interim Moderator when Shelagh retired and Barbara added her creative skills and depth of knowledge in many areas. SPI became our minister and we became a Valleys Pastorate.

Covid has been a difficult time for many churches but I think now is the time to celebrate what we have. We care for each other, those that can, help with hospital visits, shopping or providing friendly phone calls. We are here providing a church that makes Rainbows and Brownies feel at home. Bible Study and prayer meetings take place and not only for our members. Visitors are always made welcome and our Sunday services continue, a smaller congregation yes, but faithful.

It can be said that a lot has changed since I became an Elder but thankfully nothing has really. It has been a privilege to have been an Elder, one of the many that have been Elders over many, many years.

Enfys



Thankyou, Enfys for all you have done. You help put a rainbow in all our church lives.

## Mr. David Harvey Architect

We were saddened to receive a letter from Mrs Cathy Harvey to inform us that David had died. He was the architect involved in the major restoration phases of the church building when he worked alongside the conservator Dr Thomas Pinhorn. David had considerable experience of working on listed buildings and was instrumental in guiding us through the first application phase to The Lottery. He always made himself available for advice when it was needed. A devout Christian, David was also a volunteer with the Samaritans. He will be missed by many especially by his family and friends, his church, and the community in which he lived in Presteigne in Powys. This church owes a great deal to David's expertise in restoration work. Those of us that had most contact with David were grateful for his ongoing friendship. A letter of condolence on behalf of the church has been sent to Mrs Harvey and his family.

*John Wade.*

From the Editor .....

**'Do the Little Things'**

This famous quote puts me in mind of a poem that my Great Aunt Flo had on a little card propped on the mantelpiece in her bedroom. It is an appreciation of the little things in life.

God be thanked for little things  
that mean so much to me,  
The laughter of a little child,  
A blue tit on a tree.

A snowdrop or a primrose,  
Raindrops on new sprung grass,  
The first kiss of morning dew,  
Frost patterns lined on glass,  
And oh, the bliss of little thoughts  
That love has blessed with wings  
To fly straight to the lonely heart,  
Praise God for little things.

ANON

Diane.



**Young Wives**

*All ladies, any age, welcome*



- March
- 6th Mrs Chris Harling Quiz Night
- 13th Rob and Diane Moverley Costa Rica
- 20th Bingo
- 27th TBA

**Fellowship and Bible Study**

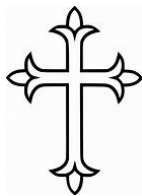
**Fellowship and Bible Study**

We resumed our Bible Study sessions on 5<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 a.m. and we will continue to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month.



Mair

## Worship



### March

- 5th, 10.30am Rev Malcolm Shapland  
Communion
- 12th, 10.30am Rev. David Salsbury
- 19th, 10.30am Mothering Sunday  
Ms Lynda Jones
- 26th, 10.30am TBA

### Mid-month Communion

Wednesday 8th March 10.30am TBC



## Lectionary Readings



### March

- 5th Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 12th Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;  
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- 19th 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- 26th Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130;  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45



### CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

In aid of church funds

Wednesday 1st March

10.30am

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

ALL WELCOME!

## LENT LUNCHES

In Aid of Christian Aid

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church

12 noon –1pm

Feb 24th Wesley

March

3rd CAVMA (Caerphilly & Aber valley Ministry Area)

10th Van Road, Windsor Road, St Helen's

17th CAVMA

24th Mount Carmel, Bethel Penyrheol

31st Bethel Nantgarw Road, Tonyfelin

## Time For Prayer

Every Tuesday at 5pm

Lewis will lead a prayer time in church.

## World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 3rd March, 10.30am  
Wesley

## The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

### Activities 2023 update

All the groups are now up and running although some of them have recruited better than others, but improvements in attendance are in the majority. The February meeting of U3A was so well attended we ran out of seating downstairs to accommodate the numbers. The Community Chorus has welcomed some new members and Only Boys Aloud have doubled their number. The Art and Craft Group is a small group, but we remain hopeful it will get better; Goldies Cymru is struggling. There used to be a group of friends that came along but they seem to have gone elsewhere partly due to the fact that we were late resuming the group. Other former members are just not going out since the pandemic, this includes the clients from a local residential home, but outside visits have not yet been resumed. We are in discussions about further events taking place.

The nature of activities in VAN-guard had changed. This was something we were told would happen when we first started some 20 years ago. We are now used by several different organisations to record music for auditions by private artists and groups. They are attracted to the excellent acoustics in the building and of course the piano. Few places can offer a baby grand piano for concerts. For this reason we must keep what is a beautiful instrument in tip top condition when it is to be used by professional people. The additional tuning we seem to have to provide these days is very expensive. Such an instrument therefore must be treated with respect. VAN-guard is responsible for its insurance, upkeep and safe

keeping so that we can use it. The church is very fortunate that they have been able to use it at no cost.

Recently we had the pleasure of a piano recital by Giordano Ferla, an extremely talented young musician. It continues to be a disappointment that so few support a concert of such a high level of talent and skill. The majority of our concerts are given by professional artists.

### Looking forward

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00p.m Tickets £6.00.**

**The Chords and The Llantrisant Guildhall Players perform extracts from Under Milk Wood.**

We once again welcome The Chords Choir from Cardiff. It is about 5 years since they last performed here. They will perform extracts from Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood in conjunction with the Llantrisant Guildhall Players. Some of the characters in the play have songs included in their parts, so it will be very interesting to experience a different kind of performance.

### **The ART, CRAFT and LITERATURE EXHIBITION 2023**



**Dates 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April. Open 11.am.-4.00p.m.**

**Submissions will be accepted on the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> April 4-6 p.m.**

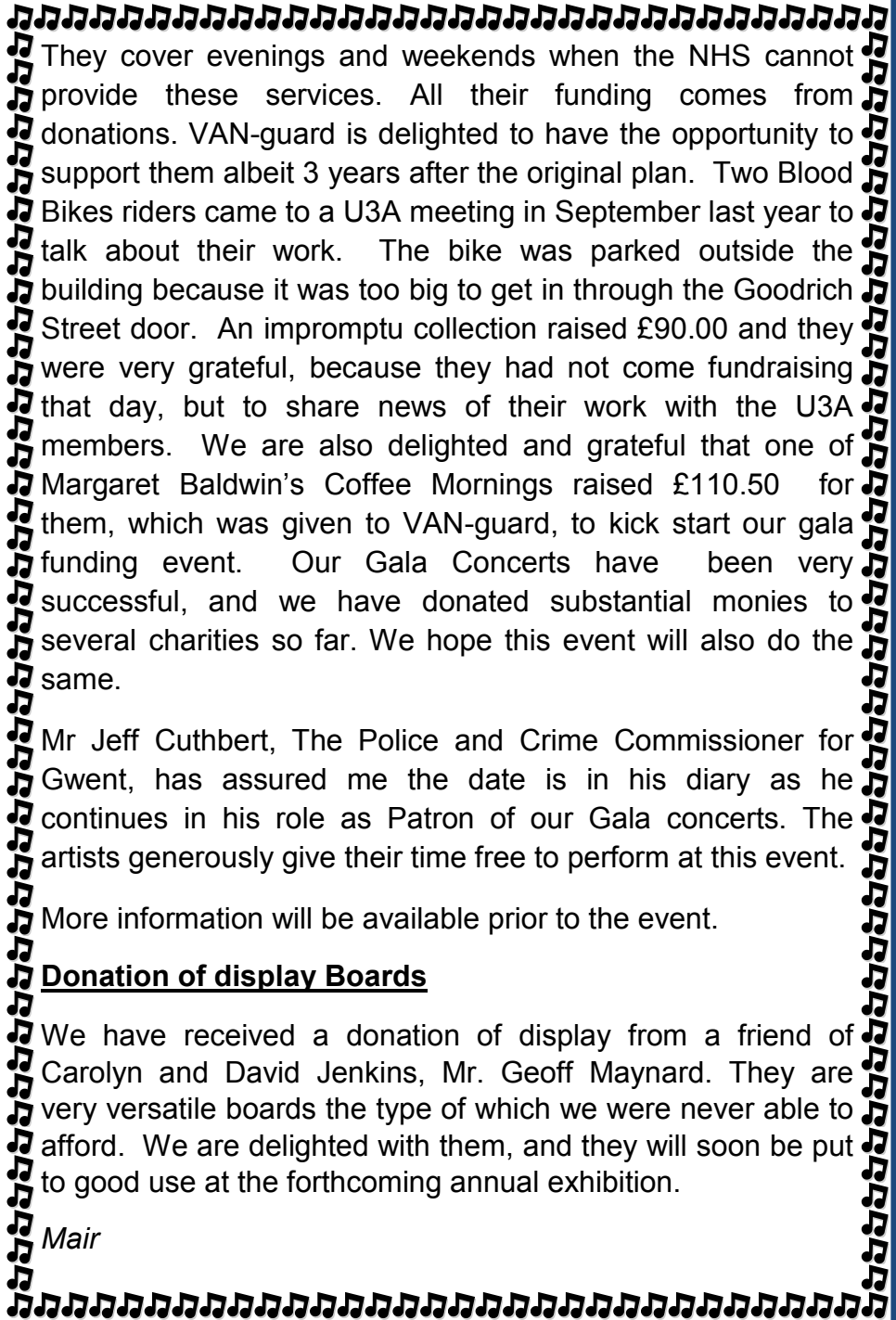
As mentioned in February's INFORM this is a springtime exhibition and is shorter in the number of days than in previous years, but we have extended the opening time by one hour. We decided to extend each day by one hour because we often had visitors coming in as we were starting to close at 3.00p.m. We would welcome church folk to help meet and greet because it offers an opportunity to meet visitors, show them around the church as they look at the various displays. We encourage submissions in art, craft and literary work which is not the norm in the usual art exhibitions. There will be exhibits which can be purchased be they a painting or a piece of craft work, cards etc. We are fortunate to be able to set up tables so that visitors can spend some time enjoying the local talent that is exhibited while enjoying some refreshments. It is a time when the community can come along and enjoy themselves in pleasant surroundings. Leaflets with all the information about submitting and visiting are available on the first and ground floors. Please take some and share the details with anyone you might think would be interested.



### **THE ANNUAL DAVID HAWTHORN MEMORIAL GALA CONCERT**

**1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £15.00.**

The concert will be in aid of **Blood Bikes Wales**. It is a wonderful charity which supports the NHS, delivering necessary samples and reports to hospital in Wales while also linking up with the same organisations across the UK. The riders are all volunteers and are on call 365 days a year.



They cover evenings and weekends when the NHS cannot provide these services. All their funding comes from donations. VAN-guard is delighted to have the opportunity to support them albeit 3 years after the original plan. Two Blood Bikes riders came to a U3A meeting in September last year to talk about their work. The bike was parked outside the building because it was too big to get in through the Goodrich Street door. An impromptu collection raised £90.00 and they were very grateful, because they had not come fundraising that day, but to share news of their work with the U3A members. We are also delighted and grateful that one of Margaret Baldwin's Coffee Mornings raised £110.50 for them, which was given to VAN-guard, to kick start our gala funding event. Our Gala Concerts have been very successful, and we have donated substantial monies to several charities so far. We hope this event will also do the same.

Mr Jeff Cuthbert, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, has assured me the date is in his diary as he continues in his role as Patron of our Gala concerts. The artists generously give their time free to perform at this event.

More information will be available prior to the event.

**Donation of display Boards**

We have received a donation of display from a friend of Carolyn and David Jenkins, Mr. Geoff Maynard. They are very versatile boards the type of which we were never able to afford. We are delighted with them, and they will soon be put to good use at the forthcoming annual exhibition.

*Mair*

**CAERPHELLY FOOD BANK**

**Box for donations 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!**



## Psalm 23

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

SHEPHERD    WANT    MAKES    PASTURES    LEADS  
 WATERS    SOUL    RESTORE    WALK    PATHS  
 RIGHTEOUS    DEATH    STAFF    COMFORT    ROD  
 PRESENCE    ANNOINT    HOUSE    FOREVER    LORD  
 DWELL    SHADOW    EVIL    CUP    FEAR    LIFE

## ECO BOX—March

### DESERTS



### Isaiah 35

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God .

In the Gospels the desert is the place where . . .

- ō the Good News was first preached
- ō Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit
- ō evil was resisted
- ō people flocked to hear the Gospel
- ō people were baptised
- ō there was time for prayer
- ō people followed Jesus
- ō people were fed
- ō the lost sheep are found



**Discussion** All over the world human beings, without a second thought, create deserts through deforestation, destruction, and dumping. Including in your neighbourhood.

Where are the places in your community that have become 'urban deserts'? Talk together about places near you where people thirst for righteousness, hunger for justice. Are there areas of wasteland in your area? Who are those who suffer from lack of housing, food, work, faith?

**Let us pray:**

Read Psalm 107:1-9

God of life we pray for the places of desolation and death. May new life blossom. We pray for those who hunger and thirst for justice. May their hope grow. We pray for those who are in distress. May they find joy in Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.

**Get Active:**

- Get involved in a local litter pick.
- Learn about 'Seed Bombing'.
- Transform a 'local desert space'.
- Check out [greenchristian.org.uk](http://greenchristian.org.uk)

Including the inspirational

"Nine Ways of Living"

**RAINDROP SPOTS**

What you need:

blotting or sugar paper, pencils, crayons, felt tips

What you do:

When it is a rainy day, place blotting paper on the ground to catch a few raindrops.

Draw around and colour around the drops.

You then can make this into a picture, or wrapping paper.

Create your own rain by dripping water onto paper and then try and identify shapes e.g. cat, car, cloud etc.

Fascinating fact: "Raindrops aren't really shaped like drops; they are perfectly round"

**DIY Seed Bombs**

What you need:

Compost, seeds, clay or clay soil or flour

What

you do:

1. In a bowl, mix together one cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2 - 3 cups of clay powder (you could use clay soil instead if you have it, or plain flour works as well).
  2. Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together like a dough.
  3. Roll the mixture into firm balls or press it into a heart shape.
  4. Leave the balls to dry in a sunny spot.
- Now for the fun bit! Plant your seed bombs by throwing them at bare parts of the garden or on waste land and wait to see what pops up!

## WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

### WaterAid

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere - but they aren't. Water Aid works with partners in some of the toughest parts of the world to install taps and toilets.

Why not share this video with your church and think about how we use water in the UK?

Let 85 year old Dadabe from Madagascar show you how to celebrate turning on the taps for the very first time!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_CR5PmltpSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CR5PmltpSI)



### A Lent Prayer from CWM Handbook, 1981

Lord God, Direct our eyes to you, the light of life

and grant us grace.

In the dark places of the world

to reflect for others,

A little of your glorious light.



### Calendar of Regular Events in the Church

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Coffee Morning, 10.30am            | First Wednesday each month                 |
| Prayer Time, 5pm                   | Every Tuesday                              |
| Communion service                  | 2nd Wednesday each month                   |
| Bible Study                        | 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month, 10.30am, |
| 'Only Boys Aloud' rehearse         | Every Monday, 6.30,                        |
| Arts and Crafts afternoon          | Every Thursday, 1pm                        |
| Caerphilly Chorus rehearse         | Every Friday, 7.30pm,                      |
| University of the Third Age (U3A)  | First Friday each month<br>3pm (usually)   |
| 'Goldies'                          | 2nd Monday of the month, 11am-12.          |
| 'Young Wives' (All ladies welcome) | Every Monday 7.30pm                        |
- NB Some activities stop during school holidays.**

## Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

27 February – 12 March 2023.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods.

**Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves?**

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

**But here's the good news.**

More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

So not only is choosing Fairtrade is best for people and planet, it could help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a hot cuppa!



## We hold in our prayers -



Frank and Phyllis Frayling

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          All those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and for rescuers and all those helping the injured and survivors.

All those still 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, Iran 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.

Those affected by the cyclone in New Zealand

## 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](mailto:dianemoverley60@gmail.com)

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



‘Keep faith, be joyful,  
do the little things.’

Saint David