

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
April 2023

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder writes ...

A tough old newspaper editor once observed to a young journalist that 'good news is no news'. How true this is for mainstream news policy! We get inundated with horror stories every day. Wars, murders, rapes, robberies with violence, financial collapses, tax increases, child abuses and anything else which involves varying degrees of unpleasantness. With good news hardly mentioned it would be easy to assume that life on earth is a ghastly nightmare for just about everyone.

There's no denying that bad things happen as they have always done throughout history.

But there is also a lot of good in this world. We are often guilty of remembering the worst in others and overlooking the number of times we have received kindness, unselfishness and support from people we barely know.

We shall all have endured difficult and painful episodes in our lives and for some those episodes are happening at present. Do we recognise the unobtrusive gracious goodness of God who supports us when we are floundering? Jesus told us we would have trouble in this world but to take heart for he had overcome the world {John16:33}.

There is a well known homily which you may find helpful:

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.

Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed two sets of prints in the sand.

One belonged to me and the other to the Lord.

I looked back at the footprints and noticed many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

So I said to the Lord. 'I have noticed that during my most troublesome times there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you the most, you should leave me.'

The Lord replied.

'My precious child, I love you and I never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints,

It was then that I carried you.'

.....
Let's carry the goodness of God's news into Spring and Summer.

Peter



From the Editor

When I was in school I really enjoyed Assembly times with the children. Rarely was there any misbehaviour, they just loved hearing stories.

I would regularly read to myself from assembly story books then re tell the tales in my own words, however, some of the stories in these old books would need further explanation. For example, the story of 'Woodbine Willie' (Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy-1883-1929.)

He was a renowned preacher with a deep love of the poor. When the first World War broke out he became an army chaplain, always sharing what he had with the soldiers, distributing 'little luxuries' which included cigarettes—hence his nickname, 'Woodbine Willie.' (Woodbines being a popular brand of cigarettes.)

As time goes by, we learn more and more and we learn to rethink and change or adapt our thinking due to what we have learned such as the harmful effects of smoking, but Geoffrey's ministry brought great comfort during his lifetime. He served and cared deeply for the soldiers.

However, the fundamental story that doesn't change, that doesn't need adapting, is that of Jesus; His birth, life, death and resurrection does not date and continues to inspire, particularly at Lent and Easter, where dark turns to light and sadness to joy, despair to hope.

Apparently, as Geoffrey's coffin left the church at the end of his funeral service, someone placed on it a packet of Woodbines.

Wishing you Easter blessings.

Diane

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday 23rd—Sunday 26th June

Please, please, PLEASE!

**Volunteer to put up a window display or
commandeer someone to help you.**

**Please ask friends and neighbours to volunteer to
take part and / or any organisations that would like
to promote themselves.**

Money is given towards the cost of flowers.

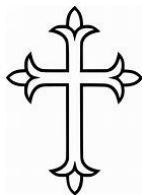
**If you have done a display before and think you have
run out of ideas—don't worry!**

Recycle the old ideas!

Please let Diane know ASAP if you can help!



Worship



April

2nd, 10.30am **Palm Sunday**
Rev Malcolm Shapland
Communion

9th, 10.30am **EASTER DAY**
Dr David Jenkins

16th, 10.30am **Rev Robin Wood**

23rd, 10.30am **Rev Gareth Dyer**

30th, 10.30am **Mr Trevor Grant**
Leprosy Mission

Mid-month Communion

Wednesday 12th April



Lectionary Readings



April

2nd **Palm Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

9th **Easter Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43;
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

16th **Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9;**
John 20:19-31

23rd **Psalm 116; Acts 2; 1 Peter 1; Luke 24**



CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 5th April

10.30am

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

ALL WELCOME!



Young Wives

All ladies, any age, welcome

April

3rd No Meeting

10th No Meeting

17th Annual General Meeting

24th Speaker for Guide Dogs

Fellowship and Bible Study

We continue to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month.



Time For Prayer

Every Tuesday at 5pm

Lewis will lead a prayer time in church.

The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

SPRINGTIME PROGRAMME

Wednesday 29th March at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £6.00.

The Chords

and The Llantrisant Guildhall Players who will perform extracts from Under Milk Wood.

We again welcome The Chords Choir from Cardiff and the Llantrisant Guildhall Players for their first visit to VAN-guard. Compere Mr Dean Powell.

Saturday 15th April at 1.00 p.m. Tickets £8.00

'Songs in Springtime'

featuring singers from Welsh National Opera

Angharad Morgan, soprano,

Francesca Saracino, mezzo soprano,

Ryan Wood Accompanist

A recital of songs by Delibes, Offenbach, Novello, Puccini, Mozart & Bizet

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME TO 1.00 p.m.

The ART, CRAFT and LITERATURE
EXHIBITION 2023

Dates 19th-26th April. Open 11.am.-4.00p.m.
Submissions will be accepted on the afternoon of
14th April 4-6 p.m.

It is good to resume our exhibition which had been cancelled due to the pandemic closures. Many former entrants have indicated their intention to enter in one or other of the relevant artistic fields. New entrants are very welcome. Dr. Hefin David SM and Mrs Jackie Askey will select their choice of Awards for Art and Literature. There will also be the ever popular Visitors' Choice Award.



As in our previous exhibitions some art and craft exhibits will be available to purchase. There will be light refreshments and a raffle to enjoy.

We hope you will be able to join us for this our first exhibition to be held in the spring.

Saturday 20th May at 7.30p.m. tickets £10.00

'From Broadway to Bayreuth'

Musical Theatre and opera classics.



THE ANNUAL DAVID HAWTHORN
MEMORIAL GALA CONCERT

1st 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.

VAN-guard is delighted to have the opportunity to support **Blood Bikes** albeit 3 years after the original plan.

Details of performers to be announced shortly.

Also

8th July an afternoon **Summer Concert by the Caerphilly Community Chorus** Time and ticket price to be confirmed nearer to the event.

15th July at 1.00p.m. **The Wind and Strings** will again delight us with their playing. Ticket price to be announced.



Mair

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday, Margaret Craig! Can you believe she is 80 on 8th April?!



Belated Birthday Greetings too, to Sue Parry (Bevan) on her 60th birthday in March. Sue has worked with Brownies for many years and her and the other leaders' hard work is really appreciated. It is a pleasure to see them helping the girls when they take part in a church service.



Sending congratulations to Hilary and family on the birth of a great grandson, Gethin, born to Nia and her partner.



CAERPHILLY 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.

We run out of rice pudding, UHT milk and tinned fruit quite often.

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!

HE IS RISEN

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| E | Y | G | A | R | D | E | N | P | E | M | E |
| G | R | L | R | E | R | U | O | I | V | A | S |
| N | O | O | Y | M | Y | J | J | U | O | J | U |
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| I | C | Y | F | D | G | Y | E | H | L | F | R |
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|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| HE IS RISEN | HALLELUIA | RESURRECTION | LORD |
| REDEEMER | SON OF GOD | CRUCIFIED | LIFE |
| SAVIOUR | TOMB | VICTORY | ANGEL GARDEN |
| MARY | DISCIPLES | EASTER | GLORY HOPE |
| JOY | PRAISE | LOVE | JESUS LIFE |

WELCOME BACK!

**Kathy Vernalls is our new Elder replacing
Enfys.**

We wish her all the best.



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
1.30pm (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.

Holy Week

April

6th Maundy Thursday Service-Wesley
(time to be confirmed)

7th, 10.30am Good Friday Service
Windsor Road,

12noon Walk led by Father John

2.30 –3pm Easter Music played by
Dr Peter Speakman
Van Road Church

9th (Time to be confirmed)
EASTER DAY
Sonrise Service –Caerphilly Mountain



We hold in our prayers -



Frank and Phyllis Frayling

Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth Hilary and Steve Akerman

David and Carolyn Jenkins Sally Ball (moving away)

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.

CHURCH ELDERS

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Mr Robert Moverley 02920 866336

Dr Peter Speakman 02920 883968

Mrs Phyllis Frayling 02920 862285

Mrs Margaret Baldwin 02920 867027

Mrs Kathy Vernalls 07527 598127

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

to



Mrs Diane Moverley

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