

# INFORM



**All of them were  
filled with  
the Holy Spirit!**

Acts 2.4

**URC  
VAN ROAD  
CAERPHELLY  
MAY 2023**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

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## An Elder writes ...

Some of you may be aware that I have started reading the letters that Diane and I wrote to each other 50 years ago when we were in college. I have also discovered a set of letters my mother and father wrote to each other when they first started going out over 80 years ago and I am gradually going through these as well.

It was war time and my father had signed up for the RAF when he was 19. His initial training was in Regent's Park, then Newquay before moving to Manchester where he seemed to stay with a particularly kind land lady. Then, in one letter he declares that his future is uncertain, and the next letter is being written on a liner crossing the Atlantic on his way to Canada for further practical training flying aircraft. He clearly took to the food on the liner (eggs with shells - not powdered - and butter, not margarine!)

Mum worked in the telephone exchange and often comments on the shifts she was working. It seems the night shift gave her great opportunities to sit and write letters, and, certainly when dad was in Manchester she seems to have been able to use the facilities to ring him when the shift was quiet. Much of their correspondence when he was in Canada is written on 'airgraph' - a technique that involved writing the letter on a pre-printed form that was photographed onto microfilm before transport across the ocean. The letters were then printed onto photographic paper before being delivered. We have about 70 of these airgraph letters in our possession, along with others written on airmail and 'normal' paper.

I have found it really interesting learning about some of their experiences during the war years and their obvious fondness for each other. What also comes through very strongly is how their upbringing in the Church has given them strength and purpose during this difficult period. Despite being away from home, dad would always ensure he attended the local Church for worship on a Sunday and involve himself with other Church activities when he could. Mum often talks in the letters about their friends from Church and the different events she has been to - in one letter she talks about hoping to go to Church each day of the week as there was a particular mission event happening. She would often be at the midweek morning or evening services.

I am grateful to my parents for their upbringing in Church life and that they passed on to their children the appreciation and understanding of the benefits of being part of a Church community. It is through our Church communities that we are able to not only worship and pray together, but also grow in our faith. It is a blessing to be a Christian, and mum and dad helped my sisters and I grow into the faith we have today.

Rob



From the Editor .....

**PENTECOST ACROSTIC**

**P**eople

**E**nlightened

**N**ew Beginnings

**T**rust

**E**verlasting Life

**O**vercoming death

**S**pirit

**T**ruth



Diane.

**YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!**

**FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**Friday 17th—Sunday 19th June**

**Please put the date in your diary**

**Volunteers needed to welcome visitors and serve refreshments or support someone with their arrangement.**

**Please let Diane know ASAP if you can help!**



**IN AID of CHRISTIAN AID**

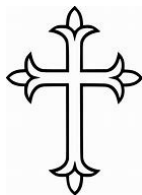
**COFFEE MORNING at Rob and Diane's**

**FRIDAY MAY 19th, 10.30am**

**Free raffle ticket with all monetary donations.**

**ALL WELCOME!**

## Worship



May

7th, 10.30am Rev Malcolm Shapland  
Communion  
Coronation Weekend

14th, 10.30am No morning service due to  
10k run  
6pm Christian Aid Week Service  
at Van Road  
Speaker Ms Jennifer Weaver  
from Christian Aid

This Service also includes the commissioning of  
street pastors

21st, 10.30am Mr Rob Moverley

28th, 10.30am Ms Lynda Jones  
Pentecost  
Spring Bank Holiday

Mid-month Communion

Wednesday 9th May 10.30am

Rev Malcolm Shapland



## Lectionary Readings



May

7th Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

14th Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

21st Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

28th Pentecost. Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30;  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13;  
John 20:19-23



## CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 3rd May

10.30am In aid of Parkinsons

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

ALL WELCOME!



## Young Wives

*All ladies, any age, welcome*

May	
1st	No meeting, Bank Holiday
8th	No meeting, Coronation Bank Holiday
15th	Mr and Mrs Roger Lewis A Visit to Jordan
22nd	Mr Keith Jones Inspirational Women of Wales
29th	No meeting, Bank Holiday

## 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 leads a prayer time in church.**

## The VAN-guard Centre

Charity Registration number 1109193

### May 2023 Report

**Groups news.** The Spring Bank Holiday and Coronation Bank Holiday will affect some regular meeting times.

**U3A.** The revised date **12<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00p.m.**

**Goldies** plan to relaunch the group on **Monday 15th June at 11.00a.m.** **Other groups meet at their normal times.**

**29<sup>th</sup> March.** The evening concert by the Chords Choir from Cardiff, along with the Guildhall Players from Llantrisant, providing excerpts from Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood' provided a very pleasant evening's entertainment, which was a change from the concerts we usually have at VAN-guard. Dean Powell the Compare, was tremendous and entertained us all evening. There was also a very pleasing selection of music.

**15<sup>th</sup> April.** The lunchtime concert 'Springtime' with Angharad Morgan and Francesca Saracino with Ryan Wood on piano provided a very enjoyable performance. Very favourable comments were received from many members of the audience. It was a lovely way to spend a Saturday lunchtime. We are always grateful to Angharad and Ryan for all the support and friendship they have given to VAN-guard over many years.



Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30p.m. tickets £10.00

**'From Broadway to Bayreuth'**

**Musical Theatre and opera classics.**

Lee David Bowen tenor, Richard Lee Williams tenor,  
Emyr Wyn Jones bass baritone, Alison Shone, soprano.

Accompanist Nicola Rose.

8<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00.

An afternoon **Summer Concert by the Caerphilly Community Chorus**. All are welcome to come and support our resident Choir with their **Musical Director, Anna Beresford**. This will be Anna's second concert at VAN-guard.

15<sup>th</sup> July at 1.00p.m. Tickets £5.00 under 16's free.

The Wind and Strings will again delight us with their playing and will end a busy series of July events.

In addition

At the start of May for two days, **Volante Opera** continue with their recording sessions. We are pleased to have this contact with them.

From 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12th July , Opera Synergy will rehearse La Boehme.

They will fit their rehearsals around church and VAN-guard activities ongoing in the building.



**THE ANNUAL DAVID HAWTHORN  
MEMORIAL GALA CONCERT**

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

Patron Jeff Cuthbert. Police and Crime  
Commissioner for Gwent.

The VAN-guard Centre is delighted to have the opportunity to support **Blood Bikes** albeit 3 years after the original plan. It will be a superb evening with **The Noteworthy Mixed Choir** from Maesteg with their **Director of Music, Ryan Wood**. Also appearing will be **Stuart Roberts, Musical Director of Treorchy Male Choir**, who is an accomplished cello player. **The Volante Tenors, David Fortey of OMA, Huw Llewelyn, and Simon Crosby Buttle of Welsh National Opera Chorus** will again appear after their enormously successful appearance last October. (Some of us missed it due to Covid, so we are pleased to have an opportunity to see them perform!). **David Fortey will again act as Compare.**

Tickets may be ordered in advance by contacting Mair and John. Some eager folks have already done so!

Mair

## **Thanks from Mair**

The Management Committee of VAN-guard wish to thank everyone who helped make this year's Art, Craft and Literature Exhibition a success. It was a new venture to hold it in the Spring after many years of it being held in November. The change of time proved a wise decision, as the weather for the greater part was much better, and many of our contributors also agreed. Several of our older contributors from previous years did not participate. Perhaps this was the result of the experiences of the last three years. However new people came along which was very pleasing. It is a big task to get the exhibition up and running and takes a lot of planning. We are grateful to those friends who helped to put up the display boards and take them down again. The actual submissions were varied and of a high standard, and it was good to see an increase in the craft work. In total there were 51 contributors, 104 paintings, together with beautiful carvings and various items of craft work. We were also supported with the hobby craft work of two GAVO officers, who have always supported our exhibition. Although it is not a competition, we do make some awards. The Senedd Member for Caerphilly Dr. Hefin David once again chose his favourite painting, and Jackie Askey, the current chair of VAN-guard, chose her favourite piece of written work. We are grateful to Hefin and Jackie for their continued support. The participants of the successful items of work each received a gift to acknowledge their success. The ever-popular Visitors' Choice winner also received an award. **It is therefore a very big thankyou to all who were involved.**

## **A Big Thank You from Margaret C.**

A big, sincere thank you to the membership of Van Road for making my birthday so special.

The element of surprise took my breath away, in the nicest possible way. I loved my birthday cake, made expertly by Margaret B. I loved my rose, now growing nicely in my border. The orchid kindly given by Young Wives is very happy on my kitchen windowsill.

My birthday cards are beautiful, still being displayed, maybe until Christmas!

I had thought that my birthday would be a non-event. It turned out to be a very happy celebration. Thank you all for your kindness.

## **10k Run**

**Rob is taking part in the 10k run on 14th May.**

**He is running in aid of Christian Aid as it is the start of Christian Aid Week.**

**If you would like to sponsor him, he has a page on the 'Just Giving' website:**

**[www.justgiving.com/page/rob-moverley-caw-2023](http://www.justgiving.com/page/rob-moverley-caw-2023)  
(He also accepts cash donations.)**

**You will also be able to see how well he did when he leads the Christian Aid Service at Van Road the same evening**

## FLOWERS

P	N	S	P	O	R	D	W	O	N	S	W
C	A	Z	S	T	J	O	N	Q	U	I	L
A	R	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	F	P
I	C	Z	Z	I	U	F	F	D	F	Y	A
H	I	S	A	R	Q	G	G	U	Q	I	Z
T	S	U	L	H	U	A	A	G	H	T	T
Y	S	C	E	T	R	N	L	S	S	U	U
S	U	O	A	L	E	E	U	S	M	P	L
R	S	R	I	M	B	F	F	P	Z	A	I
O	J	C	O	E	S	O	R	M	I	R	P
F	F	N	U	H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H
C	E	L	E	N	D	I	N	E	O	J	M
	B	Y	N	O	E	P	Y	S	I	A	D

BLUEBELL	PRIMROSE	CELENDINE	ANEMONE
WILD GARLIC	TULIP	SNOWDROP	NARCISSUS
PEONY	CROCUS	DAFFODIL	FUSHIA
FORSITHIA	DAISY	HYACINTH	AZALEA
THRIFT	JONQUIL		

## Caerphilly Food Bank

**Donations always needed please. Often short of UHT milk, tinned rice pudding and tinned fruit.**

**Cash donations also welcome.**

### 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.**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

### Jen's story.

Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve.



Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges – but Jen cannot afford to send them both. 'My heart longs to see our children finish school,' says Jen. 'These dreams are very important to me, because by doing so, I'll be sure that I am creating a good future for the children.'

Read her story on line and learn how your gifts could help farmers like Jen plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

### 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**

**Huw and Mary James and family**

**Judy and Rod Jarman      Dennis and Shelagh Pollard**

**Margaret Webb and her great niece, Alanah Wilkins**

**All those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria**

**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, Sudan 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

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  
Mrs Cathy 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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*They were all filled with awe  
and praised God.  
“A great prophet  
has appeared among us,”  
they said.  
“God has come  
to help His people.”*  
Luke 7:16 NIV