

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHELLY
June 2023

CHURCH OFFICERS

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An Elder writes ...

My Favourite Things

During my life I have been lucky enough to know many favourite things and times.

- Reading books of all kinds are among my top favourite things. I like almost anything by James Patterson. His crime mysteries enthral me. I also like Jo Thomas for a bit of light relief. I love everything that Jane Austin wrote.
- Gardening is another favourite thing. I like pottering and I like to see the fruits of my labours. My tomatoes were a triumph last year.
- Friendship and fellowship are definitely favourite parts of my life.
- A favourite time for me was being a mother to my two sons. Children bring joy but can be hard work! I enjoy being a mother to this day.
- Another favourite thing for me is freedom. Freedom to come and go. See friends, indulge in my favourite activities.
- I also appreciate that I can worship freely, go to church, share fellowship and commitment to the Lord our God. I think, with sorrow, of countries, like China, where religious freedom does not exist.

At Van Road we can worship freely, and let our beliefs be part of our everyday lives. We can help each other, support our charities and strive to 'Walk in the Way' of Jesus

I have used these words before, kindly given to us by a visiting minister, and I think worth repeating. They can be used as a daily check list, making sure that we have made good use of our time and our freedom to worship as we wish.



How have I acted with love today?

How have I lived the life of Jesus today?

How have I lived my faith today?



How have I walked with hope today?

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

To

DOROTHY LEWIS

90 on 15th JUNE

From the Editor

I enjoy reading and often have to tear myself away from a story when it has me hooked.

Over the years I have acquired many books and every so often, I take stock of the heaving shelves to see what I can pass on. It is a difficult task.

I have to admit that there are a great number of books that I have not read for a very, very long time and if truth were told, I don't know how many I would have an inkling what the plots were about even after reading the blurb on the back. So I made a decision that I would start to re read some of them before deciding if they needed to go.

My first choice was, 'The Shadow of the Wind' by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. It is a well crafted narrative and so far, has kept my attention. However, though I know I have read it before, I haven't yet found the storyline and events as familiar as I thought I would.

When it comes to the Bible however, we continue to delight in hearing, telling and rereading the stories both familiar and unfamiliar. When we reflect on them they can surprise us with new meanings and insights.

The Bible is good value as it has 66 books in one volume and even greater value in what we can learn.

It is the one book we would never part with.

Diane.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Friday 16th—Sunday 18th June

Please put the date in your diary

THEME: For The Love Of

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

Please let Diane know ASAP if you can help!

Also-

If you have any plants or cuttings you can spare we thought we could have a table with plants for sale.

THANK YOU!



Worship



JUNE

- 4th, 10.30am **Rev Malcolm Shapland**
Communion
- 11th, 10.30am **Dr Peter Speakman**
- 18th, 10.30am **Lewis Lewis-Head**
(includes Flower Festival)
- 25th, 10.30am **Ms Lynda Jones**

Mid-month Communion
Wednesday 14th June, 10.30am
Rev Malcolm Shapland



Lectionary Readings



JUNE

- 4th **Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 9;**
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- 11th **Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12**
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
- 18th **Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;**
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8
- 25th **Genesis 21:8-21; Jeremiah 20:7-13;**
Psalm 69:7-18; Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39



CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 7th June

10.30am In aid of Lifeboats

£2 (includes a raffle ticket)

ALL WELCOME!



Young Wives

All ladies, any age, welcome

June

5th Joining the Navy, Mrs Jackie Conway

12th Joe's Sock!

19th TBA

26th Summer Meal

July/August No Meetings

Autumn Session commences September 11th

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

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

Saturday 20th May

'From Broadway to Bayreuth'
Musical Theatre and opera classics.



Lee David Bowen and Richard Lee Williams tenors.
Emyr Wyn Jones, bass baritone, Alison Shone, soprano with
accompanist Nicola Rose.

We were delighted to welcome back to VAN-guard for the third time tenors Lee David Bowen and Richard Williams in their latest performance of **'From Broadway to Bayreuth'**. They were joined by Alison Shone, soprano, who had performed at VAN-guard some years ago when involved with a summer masterclass. She is also the music director for three choirs including a Stroke Choir. Emyr Wyn Jones, base baritone, joined them for the first time. A former Only Boys Aloud singer, he was tutored for a while by David Fortey. He has gone on to enjoy a successful career on the London stage. It is always an immense pleasure to welcome back Nicola Rose, a superb pianist, accompanist, and répétiteur who also teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She has accompanied many singers here over the years and has always been supportive of the work we do.

The audience enjoyed a concert of wonderful and varied music performed by four amazingly talented singers. The programme was a varied mixture of opera and musical theatre. There were solos, duets, and a finale with all four artists performing, which ended an evening of superb entertainment.

The programme is provided by the artists. It included a closing paragraph that mentioned that if the members of the audience wished they could contribute to a retiring collection for the church. This impromptu collection raised £100 for the church, which was presented to the treasurer after the Sunday morning service on 21st May.

8th 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.

15th 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.

From 3rd - 12th July , Opera Synergy will rehearse La Boheme.

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

THE ANNUAL DAVID HAWTHORN MEMORIAL GALA **CONCERT**

1st July at 7.00 p.m. Tickets £15.00.



Patron Jeff Cuthbert.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

After three years without being able to put on a Gala Concert we are pleased to be able to remedy the situation this year. The VAN-guard Centre is delighted to have the opportunity to support **Blood Bikes Wales**. They are frequently to be seen on our roads supporting the NHS by delivering items to hospitals and hospital laboratories. They carry a variety of items but not body parts. They can be mistaken for the police except that the strip on the back of their yellow jackets says BLOOD not POLICE. The riders both men and women are all volunteers and provide their service 365 days a year, covering evenings and weekends when the NHS has no provision. They save a great deal of money to those hospital trusts they work with.

The Gala Concert will provide the usual very high standard of music. **The Noteworthy Mixed Choir** from Maesteg with their **Director of Music Ryan Wood** will be performing, and Ryan will conduct them. **Stuart Roberts, Music Director of Treorchy Male Choir**, will accompany the choir. **The Volante Tenors, Simon Crosby Buttle and Huw Llewellyn of Welsh National Opera Chorus and David Fortey of OMA**, will be accompanied by Ryan. They appear once more after their enormously successful performance 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. All artists will be performing pro bono.

Tickets may be ordered/paid for in advance by contacting Mair and John. Some eager folks have already done so! It helps if tickets can be ordered and paid for in readiness for collection at the door.

We would value your support to make this a grand fundraising event by attending the concert. If unable to attend, perhaps a donation toward the evening's fundraising target would be gratefully received.

Recording sessions

May

Matthew Tilley, a local opera singer, came in twice to make personal recordings. He will be performing at VAN-guard with accompanist Daniel Cushing on 30th September. Some of you may remember Daniel's brilliant organ recital some years ago, while studying at Bath University on an organ scholarship.

Puresonics Media came in for another half day recording session with an opera singer. The work can vary from CD recordings to videos. The space on the first floor allows for the varying recordings required. The acoustics and piano attract people for this work. There is a considerable amount of equipment to set up for the recordings and we have the space to accommodate it.

Volante Opera returned for an evening to carry out more work on the recording of their CD. The amount of equipment they bring in to do the recording is amazing. Both floors are then in use.

They have been working on the music composed to accompany some of the Children's Stories by AA Milne. It is hoped to launch the CD at VAN-guard sometime this summer and will welcome as many children as possible to the event. The plans so far sound quite exciting. The date will be confirmed soon.

Future bookings to date.

There are two bookings in August which need to be firmed up. One will be a concert. So far two concerts have been booked for September, two at Christmas and one for 2nd March 2024. The diary is slowly filling up with activities and events.

We are slowly getting back to what used to be our normal programme of activities and events, although it has taken time. It has felt a bit like starting all over again and has been a big effort for all of us. We are very grateful for the support received from some church members and encouragement from members of the local community.

Mair

Christian Aid Well Done, Rob!

Rob wishes to thank everyone that sponsored him for the 10k run. To date he has raised £575

Many thanks for supporting the Coffee Morning.

A wonderful £108 was raised.

The Christian Aid Service raised £246.65

Many thanks for all the fantastic support.

Morning Has Broken

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

MORNING	BROKEN	BLACKBIRD	SPOKEN
PRAISE	SINGING	FRESH	WORD
SUNLIT	HEAVEN	DEWFALL	GARDEN
ELATION	RECREATION	LIGHT	DAY
SWEETNESS	BORN	GRASS	MINE
			GOD

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.

Visitors.

Australia:

When Paul Chegvidden, who is Puresonics Media, came to record in May he brought along his parents David and Lorraine, who were visiting him and his wife Joelene. We had met their daughter-in-law when she was an Australian student in the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and had sung at VAN-guard and prior to her marriage to Paul. It was obvious in our conversation with them that they have similar events taking place in their home church. They enjoyed looking round the church building.

America:

We were asked by the granddaughter of Rev. Edward Bush, Linda Williams, who lives in Dover, if we could show some more relatives of Edward Bush around the church. Teresa and Jon Iles from Orlando wished to visit the church, having heard about their relative who had been the first minister at Van Road English Congregational Church in Caerphilly and asked to visit his church in Caerphilly. More news in the next issue of INFORM because as I write a date for the visit has yet to be confirmed. It is lovely to welcome people from other countries to the church and share experiences with them.

Mair and John.

We hold in our prayers -



Frank and Phyllis Frayling

Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert

Vernon Holland Barbara Lloyd

Carol Booth Hilary and Steve Akerman

Sally Ball Huw and Mary James and family

Judy and Rod Jarman Dennis and Shelagh Pollard

Margaret Webb and her great niece's family, Alanah Wilkins

The family of Nicola (nee Bushen)

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

dianemoverley60@gmail.com



Consider the lilies of the field, they toil
not neither do they spin, but I tell you,
even Solomon in all shis glory was not
attired like one of these.