

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHILLY**  
**July/August 2023**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

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### **An Elder writes ...**

Can it really be that we are in July once again, it seems the years are going so fast that time never gives us a chance from day to day to sit and think? As I write this for INFORM my mind is racing from one thing to another. I glanced up and looked out of the window and saw the beauty of God's world, the sun shining on the bird bath and the birds of all descriptions, bathing in it; the lovely flowers that have come back from last year and some new ones I have planted this summer. We are so fortunate to have the freedom to be able to see God's beauty all around us. My thoughts go back to my childhood; we were so lucky that my dad worked on the railway as we went on a lot of day trips on the train during the school summer holidays. We went to places like Western-Super-Mare, Weymouth and Ilfracombe where we would play on the sand and swim in the sea, never worrying about pollution and global warming. One of our best-loved trips was to Hereford and we would come back laden with apples, pears and my favourite, plums. Travelling on the old steam train - those were the days! Although I was born in the war years I still have wonderful memories of growing up. I hope I have given my family happy memories to look back on.

We must think about our world and what we can do to help keep it from getting spoiled for future generations, I

know our church is trying to be eco friendly and we do our best to make God's world as he would like it to be but unfortunately, not all people of this world think as we do.

I have just gone outside into the warmth of the sun and looked at the wonderful beauty that surrounds me. I hope that we are all able to see God's love surrounding us through the summer months and always.

God Bless,

Margaret Baldwin



“Look to the Lord and his strength,  
Seek his face always, remember the wonders he has done.  
His miracles, and the judgements he pronounced”.

1 Chronicles 16, verses 11 – 12

### **Thank You**

**We now have a 'new' piano in the School Room.  
Thank you to John and Phyllis for arranging the  
delivery across Goodrich Street and thank you to  
Amanda and family for allowing us to have the  
piano.**

**From the Editor .....**

First of all, a GREAT BIG THANKYOU! To all who contributed in any way to the Flower Festival. I am not a creative person as far as flowers are concerned, but was grateful to rely on the talents and hard work of others. A particular ,Thankyou! To those helping generally with organising, welcoming and the refreshments.

**Secondly -**



**Denis Pollard**

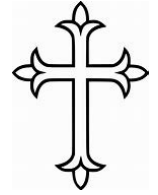
Those of us that attended Denis's, 'Celebration of Life' service were very moved by the service itself, the music he had chosen and the poetry. The service included 2 of his poems. This is one.

**Everything is more than a little 'now'  
This tree, this mouse, this merest speck-  
And also each of us.  
Fleeting moments may they all seem  
Yet stay in their time intact,  
Untainted.  
Each of us is forever  
Eternity is an everlasting 'now.'**

**Hoping you have a lovely summer.**

**Diane**

**Worship**



**July**

- |                      |                                           |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>2nd, 10.30am</b>  | <b>Rev Malcolm Shapland<br/>Communion</b> |
| <b>9th, 10.30am</b>  | <b>Rev Robin Wood</b>                     |
| <b>16th, 10.30am</b> | <b>Richard and Sarah Edwards</b>          |
| <b>23rd, 10.30am</b> | <b>Mr Dave Clarke</b>                     |
| <b>30th, 10.30am</b> | <b>TBC</b>                                |

**Mid-month Communion  
Wednesday 12th July, 10.30am  
Rev Malcolm Shapland**



## Worship

### August

- 6th, 10.30am      Rev Malcolm Shapland  
                                 Communion
- 13th, 10.30am     Mr Lewis Lewis-Head
- 20th, 10.30am     TBC
- 27th, 10.30am     TBC Bank Holiday Weekend

Mid-month Communion  
Wednesday 9th August, 10.30am  
Rev Malcolm Shapland



## Lectionary Readings



### JULY

- 2nd            Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,58-67;  
                 Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 6:12-23
- 9th            Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14;  
                 Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
- 16th          Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;  
                 Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- 23rd          Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;  
                 Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- 30th          Genesis 29:15-28, Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12;  
                 Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### AUGUST

- 6th            Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15;  
                 Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Matt 14:13-21
- 13th          Genesis 37:1-4, 12-20; 1 Kings 19:9-18;  
                 Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- 20th          Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133:  
                 Romans 11:1-2, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28
- 27th          Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6;  
                 Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

## Pastorate News

Firstly, the leaking roof on the manse conservatory has been replaced and we are currently seeking new tenants.

Secondly, the elders of Pontypridd Uniting Church, Hope and Market Square, Merthyr, Bethany, Ystrad Mynach and Van Rd met with Synod representatives Revd Martha McInnes and Revd Branwen Rees in June and agreed to explore the process of engaging a Regional minister - appointed to the 4 churches but with wider Synod responsibilities. We are now developing our pastorate profile and will meet again on 10th July. The elders have agreed two out of Rob, Margaret C and Cathy would represent Van Rd in future meetings of the pastorate. When we get to the stage of 'preaching with a view' we would expect one service with the opportunity for the prospective minister to visit all the churches during a weekend. do ask if you have any questions..

## 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 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.

We hope you will come along and bring family and friends to support our annual David Hawthorn Gala Concert which will be a very special evening with superb musicians and singers performing. **The Noteworthy Mixed Choir** from Maesteg, with their **Director of Music Ryan Wood**, is a keenly sort after choir for concerts, so we are very pleased that they can come to VAN-guard to perform. Those of you who have already heard them will know what a delight it is to hear them singing. Their music director Ryan Wood is a favourite performer / accompanist of many who come to our concerts. On the evening, the choir will be accompanied by the music director of Treorchy Male Choir **Stuart Roberts**. After a very successful concert at VAN-guard last autumn we welcome the return of **The Volante Tenors, Simon Crosby Buttler and Huw Llewellyn of Welsh National Opera Chorus and David Fortey of OMA**, who will be accompanied by Ryan. **David Fortey will again act as Compare**. All artists will be performing pro bono.

As in previous years tickets may be ordered/paid for in advance by contacting Mair and John. 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 for Blood Bikes Wales. Their riders are all

volunteers, both men and women. They support the work of the NHS by transporting documents and test samples, breast milk and any other items that need transporting from one hospital to another in Wales and over the border into England if necessary. They save hospital trusts many hundreds of thousands of pounds by their work. They do not receive any funding except that given by donations. During the lockdowns one of the petroleum companies provided their fuel free for a year.

**If you are unable to attend, we would be grateful to receive a donation to support the work of Blood Bikes. Who knows when we might need their help.**

There will be representation from Blood Bikes at the concert. Unfortunately, their bikes are too big to get through the Goodrich Street door and certainly too heavy to go in our lift!

**The month of July continues with two more concerts:**

**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 **Music Director Anna Beresford**. This will be Anna's second concert VAN-guard. The Chorus' guests for the event will be **the ReChoir**, a talented group of young singers.



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

**The Wind and Strings** with their Leader Nigel Jones will again delight us with their playing and will end a busy series of July events. It is good to have them back as a regular group. It is a lovely relaxing hour listening to their music.

**Groups news**

**All groups continue to run until the start of the school summer holidays.**

A few activities may continue so it will be good to check to see what is running.

**Synergy Opera** are planning three days of rehearsal on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July. They will fit their rehearsals around church and VAN-guard activities ongoing in the building.

**Tuesdays 10.30 a.m.- 1.00p.m.**

The Health and Well Being Course dealing with Chronic Pain will finish at the end of June. **N.B.** We have agreed with The Co-ordinator, Jules Horton, to run two half day workshops on 25<sup>th</sup> July. One will be concerned with Chronic Pain and another with Diabetes. They will show how these courses work and how they can help people to live with these conditions. Please look put for the posters if interested in coming along.

I still have some copies of books which deal with Living with Health problems. If anyone would like to have a copy, please see Mair .

Lee Innocent our Piano Tuner

On 14<sup>th</sup> June Lee and his family will attend an event at Buckingham Palace. the unveiling of portraits of some of the Windrush immigrants. Some years ago, the King, when Prince of Wales, had commissioned portraits of some survivors of the German concentration camps and portraits of the last WW1 veterans. The King has followed this up with a similar project with some Windrush survivors. Lee's father-in-law had been chosen to have his portrait painted but died before it took place. Nevertheless, the family received a letter from the King to say they would still be invited to the unveiling ceremony which takes place on 14<sup>th</sup> June. We hope they have a wonderful time. It is a busy June for Lee because he will then go to Glastonbury to tune the pianos on the various stages used in the festival. He has been going for several years and thoroughly enjoys it. This year he is taking his children with him. He will be home in time to tune the baby grand piano for the Gala Concert!

Thanks

Each time there is a concert VAN-guard asks Margret Baldwin to arrange flowers in the church. It makes an enormous difference and brings a welcoming atmosphere to the building for the performers and audience alike. They are then left for the church service the following day. A big thankyou to Margaret for taking time out to do this for us. Thank you too to Cathy and Phyllis for arranging the refreshments and serving them at each concert.

Future bookings to date.

Events are booked from September and will be included in the next issue of INFORM. Anything finalised for August will be advertised by posters.

We are pleased that two VAN-guard groups are taking part in this year's Flower Festival viz. The Community Chorus and the University of the Third Age. Previously the Art Group did the same thing. It is an example of community involvement in church activities.

Mair 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023



**CHURCH COFFEE MORNINGS**

**Wednesdays**

**10.30am**



**£2 (includes a raffle ticket)**

**July 5th -Tommy Cooper Society 'Tommy Ticker' Defibrillator Campaign**

**August 2nd - Caerphilly Children's Centre, Energlyn**

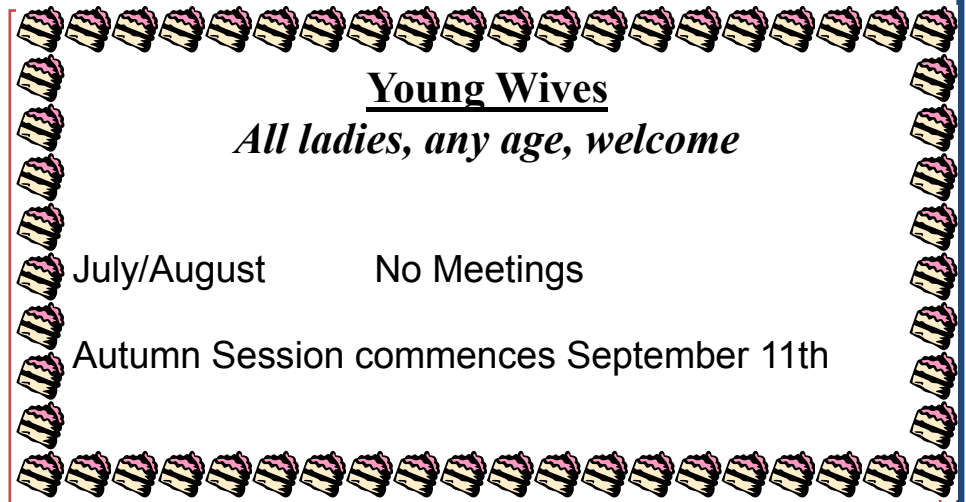
**ALL WELCOME!**



## SUMMER GETAWAYS

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

MOUNTAINS	SEASIDE	BEACH	LAKE
COUNTRYSIDE	ISLANDS	FARM	CAMPING
LODGE	CARAVAN	HOTEL	VILLA
TOUR	APARTMENT	SAFARI	HOSTEL
KAYAKING	FISHING	GOLF	



## Young Wives

*All ladies, any age, welcome*

July/August

No Meetings

Autumn Session commences September 11th

### 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.

**America:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May we met with the great, great, great, granddaughter of Edward Bush Teresa Iles and her husband Jon from Texas. Teresa was the granddaughter of one of the granddaughters of Edward Bush who travelled from the US to attend the rededication of the worship area. Like her grandmother Teresa was able to hold the christening bowl that Edward used to christen some of his children. John prepared a display of documents relevant to the early beginnings of this church and its construction. They knew some of the story of Edward Bush from the book written by his granddaughter Linda Williams, with whom we remain in contact. They spent two hours looking around, taking photographs, and asking many questions. We were pleased to give them a centenary mug of the church, a photograph of Edward Bush and a photograph of Linda Williams, the then Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Sir Simon Boyle, and Paul Dennis, who designed and donated the memorial of Edward Bush to the church. We thoroughly enjoyed the time spent in their company and it was good to meet more relatives of our first minister. They also gave a generous £50 donation to the church.

*Mair and John 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

**POLITE NOTICE—Please note -**

**All food waste and tea bags should be put in the Green Food waste box in the kitchen. Thank you!**

## 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      Shelagh Pollard and family**

**Nicola (nee Bushen) and her family**

**All those affected by the tragic boat accident in the Mediterranean**

**The families of the children murdered in Uganda.**

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



He who builds his house on the rock,  
stands firm but time and tide wait for no  
one.