

# INFORM



**URC**  
**VAN ROAD**  
**CAERPHILLY**  
**February 2024**

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### **Church Secretary**

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### **Church Treasurer**

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### **Pulpit Secretary**

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### **An Elder Writes ....**

When I taught in Junior Church many years ago I remember doing a session on the books of the Old Testament. We organised the books into 5 different groups - the Law; History; the Prophets; Psalms and Wisdom. Although this didn't fully follow the order we find these books in the Bible it was a pretty close match (e.g. the Law was Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy and Numbers etc.). It was a good guide and helped gain a better understanding of what sometimes can be a bit of an over-whelming set of books (who has hoped to read the Bible by starting at Genesis and giving up before the end of Exodus!)

Since the mid 1970's, when I worshipped in Manchester, I have been aware of Alan T .Dale's interpretation of the Bible in his books 'Winding Quest' and 'New World.' Written as a way of shedding new light on the Bible, particularly for Secondary School pupils, he adopts a completely different approach to organising and telling the stories we find in the Old and New Testament. It is much more accessible and a number of years ago I remember reading through the whole of Winding Quest (the Old Testament) with little difficulty - and I am not a great reader!

In recent months, a group of us that meet in Penrhys have been looking again at these books using a series called 'Making Sense of Our World - the Heart of the Biblical Experience', in which Revd John Morgans has interpreted Alan T. Dales' writings. We have been privileged to have John leading us.

What is interesting is that Alan Dale starts by telling the historical story of the Hebrew nation from the forming of the nation around 1000 BC, starting as the Hebrew people start occupying Canaan and their early wars with the Philistines

in modern day Gaza (ironically for some, we started this a couple of days after the Hamas attack on October 7th,) how they created Kings and looked to their great King David, despite his many flaws, and his son Solomon at a time of great national and religious pride, but how they turned their backs on God which ultimately lead to the division of the nation and then the fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria, followed by the fall of the Southern Kingdom to Babylon.

Where was God in all this? We have come to learn it is only in exile, at the deepest trough in the national life that the Hebrew people start afresh to try to understand their relationship with God.

So, after the history, come the prophets - people reflecting on the national life and trying to make sense of the story, and finally, there is a section entitled 'Enduring Convictions' that looks at 'What Kind of World do we live in?' and 'What Kind of Person we should be?' where we start looking at the readings from Genesis followed by an exploration of other books and stories such as Job, Ruth Jonah and Daniel.

People often ask about the relevance of the Bible - particularly the Old Testament - to a modern day world with Internet and Social Media etc. Reading through 'Winding Quest' in the way we have, has simply re-affirmed to me its relevance and challenged me to think again about how I go about reading the Bible.

Rob



### From the editor .....

I was skimming through an old school assembly book when I came across a section, 'Why Christians Join Their Hands.'

It pointed out that no one is quite certain of the answer but reflected that it must have been soon after armies took prisoners that hands were tied together. At some later time it became a symbol of surrender.

As time went on people would use this gesture to show that they were less worthy of someone. Many Indians began to join their hands when praying to demonstrate how weak they were in the presence of their god.

Some time before the birth of Jesus the Greeks and Romans took up joining of hands in their religious services.

Early Christians stood with outstretched hands when praying like the Hebrews from whom they had taken over some of their practices. Later Christians crossed their arms on their breasts when they prayed which is said to demonstrate a quieter, humbler attitude.

Over 1200 years ago Christians started to join hands in prayer. They may have borrowed the custom from the great lords who made their men join hands as a sign to show they were faithful servants, Hindus prayed with joined hands from early times, joined hands indicated no threat to anyone. It can be a form of greeting, 'Namaste.'

Perhaps it was pointed out that when hands are put together those praying cannot fidget or be easily

distracted. Perhaps that is why, when small, in assembly, we were told to put, 'Hands together, eyes closed!' For any or all of these reasons, Christians began to join their hands. So when we do this we are saying to God-

'I am yours, bound to you as were the prisoners of old to their captors. Do with me as you wish.'

*(Information taken from, 'The 2nd book of 101 Assembly Stories' by Frank Carr)*



### THANKYOU!

Many thanks to so many of my friends who have been in contact with me since my illness over Christmas. I really appreciate all your phone calls and cards. My voice is getting stronger but have been told I have the whooping cough virus and it is now called, 'the hundred day chest infection. I thought I was 'too long in the tooth' for that since I had it when I was 5 years old pre NHS. and pre antibiotics.

I miss coming to Church and look forward to starting back to Young Wives on March

Carol

## ECO CHURCH

We are pleased to announce that Van Road Church has been recommended for a bronze certificate issued by **A Rocha** for our commitment to environmental issues, fair trade and sustainability etc.

To achieve the award we have had to show commitment and progress in these areas -

Worship and Teaching

Buildings

Community and Global Engagement

Lifestyle

If you would like to see a copy of our completed application please see Margaret C or Diane.

All ideas to continue to improve our ECO credentials will be gratefully received.



## Worship

### February

4th, 10.30 am

Mr Robert Moverley  
(Communion)

11th, 10.30 am

Ms Lynda Jones

18th, 10.00 am

Mr Andrew Glanfield

25th, 10.30 am

Mrs June Maxwell

Mid-month Communion TBC

Wednesday February 14th, 10.30am

Rev Malcolm Shapland



**WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING!**

**What About?**

**Hughes Acre (Church Car Park)**

**Why?**

**It's an eyesore!**

**Who?**

**Church Members and / or employ someone**

**When?**

**In early spring!**

**How?**

**How can it be improved?**

**Please bring your good ideas to the next  
Church meeting.**

*The Elders*

**Van –Guard Concerts in December**

**During December there were 3 excellent, well attended and enjoyable concerts -**

**MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Angharad Morgan and Francesca Saracino**

**Accompanied by Sian Davies**

**SNOW IN CONCERT**

**Caerphilly Community Chorus**

**Special Guest Rhys Archer –Tenor**

**CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Caerphilly Wind and Strings**

**Many thanks to all who performed, helped or attended. We look forward to future events in the spring and summer, starting with a weekend of Music at the beginning of March.**

**Community Choir - Fri 1st March at 7:00 p.m.**

**Serenata Choir - Sat 2nd March at 7:00 p.m.**

**Giordano Ferla - Sun 3rd March at 2:00 p.m.**



## Saint Teilo

**Feast Day 9th February**

Teilo was born in Penalun (Penally) around the year 500. His education took place in 2 institutions, The first was with the renowned Dubricius (or Dyfrig), while the second was directed by Paulinus of Wales (thought to be in Whitland where he became a close companion of St David).

Like many founder-bishops he appears to have had experience of battle. At St David's he is said to have ousted an Irish pirate named Bwya, killed his cattle and burnt his fortress to the ground.

He succeeded Dubricius as Bishop of Llandaff after Dubricius retired to Bardsey Island. He founded the first church in Llandaff and headed a monastic school. He became bishop over Glywysing and Gwent. When he died his relics were claimed by 3 churches, one being Llandaff Cathedral.

Many churches and schools throughout Wales are dedicated to St. Teilo. St Teilo is the patron saint of the city of Cardiff.



## Morning Has Broken

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

**BLACKBIRD      BROKEN      MORNING      SPOKEN**  
**BIRD      PRAISE SINGING      FRESH WORD**  
**RAIN      SUNLIT HEAVEN      DEWFALL      FEET**  
**SWEETNESS      GARDEN      COMPLETENESSEDEN**  
**SUNLIGHT      ELATION      BORN      SPRINGING**

**FAIR TRADE**

Since Fairdo's closed in Cardiff we have not been able to have our fair trade stall. The church supports Fairtrade by using tea, coffee, cleaning products, food etc that are fairly traded and support the environment, but the wider selection of goods is not so readily available.

However, though the shop has closed, it is good news that Jan Tucker, who was the manager for Fairdo's since the beginning, is going to set up a Fairtrade outlet at Park End Presbyterian Church, probably on a Tuesday morning. Hopefully, we will be able to support this venture.

Developing countries have been hit severely during and since Covid and need developed countries' support and for their products to be bought and sold fairly. Their families deserve good food, shelter and education and buying fairly traded goods gives them hope.

**FOODBANK**

Many thanks if you have been able to support Caerphilly Foodbank over the year.

Please remember that there is a box for donations at the back of the church. Monetary donations are also welcome. (See Diane.) We regularly have to buy UHT milk, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit and tea for example.

**CHURCH COFFEE MORNING**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7th February**

**10.30am**

**In aid of Caerphilly Foodbank**

**ALL WELCOME!**



**New Moderator for Wales**

**We are very grateful for the wonderful service of Rev. Simon Walkling when he was Moderator. He is now continuing his ministry in Swansea.**

**We are very pleased to welcome the new moderator, Rev. David Salisbury who has led worship for us on more than one occasion.**

## Lectionary Readings



### February

4th Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

11th 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; mark 9:2-9

14th Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;  
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17;  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

18th First Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

25th Second Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



## Young Wives

*Mondays 7.30pm*

*All ladies, any age, welcome*

**No meetings until March 4th.**



### 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, 10.30am

'Only Boys Aloud' rehearse Every Monday, 6.30,

Caerphilly Chorus rehearse Every Friday, 7.30pm,

University of the Third Age (U3A) First Friday each month  
1.30pm (usually)

'U3A' singing group every other Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00

'Young Wives' (All ladies welcome) Every Monday 7.30pm

Bible Study, 1st and 3rd Thursdays in the month, 10.30am

**NB Some activities stop during school holidays. Please check for any changes to this list.**



## It Happened in February

**18th, 1546** Martin Luther died. He was, in order, an Augustinian monk, a priest, a university teacher and a celebrity and a condemned heretic!

**19th, 1790** John Wycliffe is tried for heresy. With the Duke of Guant's guards intimidating the English clergy at trial, John went free, able to return to his greatest work, the first English translation of the Bible.

**23rd, 303** Roman emperor, Diocletian begins his persecution of the Christians.

**1468, 45 BC** The Western world celebrates its first Leap Year, created by Julius Caesar's new calendar, in effect since 1st January.



Caerphilly

**Caerphilly Street Pastor Café**  
Every month from 10.30am to 12.30pm  
The Twyn Community Centre,  
Caerphilly



<b>20th January</b>	<b>17th February</b>
<b>16th March</b>	<b>20th April</b>
<b>18th May</b>	<b>15th June</b>
<b>13th July</b>	<b>24th August</b>
<b>14th September</b>	<b>19th October</b>
<b>23rd November</b>	<b>14th December</b>

## We hold in our prayers -



**John Wade Carol Jones**

**Rev Malcolm Shapland Diana Hibbert**

**The family of Vernon Holland Carol Booth**

**Hilary and Steve Akerman Judy and Rod Jarman**

**Frank Frayling Wendy & Roy Angove**

**Those in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank.**

**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.**

**Those affected by wild fires and particularly Tahiti and the island of Maui. Flooding in UK and in Pakistan and Libya. The earthquake in Japan. The volcanic eruption in Iceland.**

## 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)



**May the God of hope fill you with  
all joy and peace as you trust in  
Him, so that you may overflow  
with hope by the power of the  
Holy Spirit.**

**Romans 15:13**