

INFORM



URC
VAN ROAD
CAERPHILLY
April 2024

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An Elder Writes

I was looking out on a dismal dreary March morning and I thought how gloomy it was and suddenly the sun shone through the clouds and it changed the scene completely, the room wasn't dull and gloomy anymore, it was like God had shone a light into my life and he had read my thoughts because I had asked, 'Where's the sun the weather man had promised us for that day?' and all of a sudden there it was!

We are still in Lent as I'm writing this and waiting for Easter, which is the most important time in the Christian calendar throughout the world and our trust and faith in God carries us through the good and bad things in our lives, but how can we say that to all those who are suffering in war torn countries. Don't blame God for what man is doing, all we must do is pray and keep praying that one day people will stop ruining our world and that all wars, famine and drought will end but until it does happen, people will still be asking, 'Where is God?, Why does he let bad things happen?'

Think about it, he didn't include the guns, war heads and all the technology we have today when he created the world and all the beauty that surrounds us in our everyday lives; that is what we must thank him for. We, as Christians, who have faith in God's love for us, must try and take everyone with us and we must keep God's world as he created it and if we believe in his love for us we

know he is watching our every move and hearing every thought that we make.


My prayer and hope for Easter is that there will be a cease fire in the Middle East and all other countries who are at war at this time.

We are looking forward to April and some nice sunshine, time seems to be going so quickly, the first 3 months of 2024 have gone (it must be an age thing,). It seems the older I get, the quicker time seems to go and sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day and then a little voice says, 'there's always tomorrow.' When the world disappoints you, reach out for your dreams. When sadness surrounds you, reach out for love and always, always reach out in hope.

God Bless,

Margaret Baldwin



* * * * *
 * From the editor *
 * Quite often when my sister comes to visit, we have a *
 * Chinese takeaway meal. Last week the meal included *
 * some Fortune Cookies, given at Chinese New Year. *
 * This oddly shaped biscuit has a tiny piece of paper *
 * with a message inside. Mine said ... *
 * ...' Look! Good fortune is around you!' *
 * I smiled and I thought, 'Of course it is.' I have a loving *
 * family and friends, and a host of material things *
 * (some, of course, more essential than others.) *
 * This message is only relevant for people like me. *
 * Homeless people, people struggling to, 'make ends *
 * meet,' those lonely or ill , those in fear and caught up *
 * in war , refugees, they would not identify with this *
 * comment. *
 * We are continually presented with such catastrophe *
 * and unfairness both in our own country and across the *
 * world. Christ came to give life and to, 'have it more *
 * abundantly.' It is so hard to see how this can be so in *
 * the unfortunate lives of so many people. *
 * We all do what we can in our own ways and continue *
 * to pray wholeheartedly for change, for peace, an end to *
 * inequalities and for leaders of nations to show *
 * compassion and love and a real commitment to serve. *
 * As we appreciate the new spring sunshine and growth, *
 * let us pray that, 'God's will be done.' *
 * Diane  *
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 * **Worship**  *
 * **April** *
 * **7th, 10.30am** **Dr. Peter Speakman** *
 * **14th, 10.30 am** **Rev. Andrew Davies** *
 * **21st, 10.30 am** **Sarah and Richard Edwards** *
 * **28th, 10.30 am** **Ms Lynda Jones** *
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 * **Mid-week Communion** *
 * **Wednesday 10th April** *
 * **10.30am** *
 * **Rob Moverley** *
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It Happened in April

- 4th AD 397** St Ambrose dies. One of his best remembered achievements was the baptism of a Pagan father and illegitimate son. The father was eventually canonised as St Augustine of Hippo.
- 6th, 1199** Richard the Lionheart dies from gangrene.
- 1909** Robert Peary, American explorer, was the first to reach the North Pole.
- 9th, 1865** American Civil War ends.
- 10th, 1585** Pope Gregory X111 dies. He gave us our modern calendar.
- 14th, 1865** Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
- 16th, 1207** St Francis of Assisi renounces his worldly goods.
- 17th, 1397** Chaucer's first telling of The Canterbury Tales in the court of Richard 2nd.
- 18th, 1521** Martin Luther refuses to recant at The Diet of Worms.
- 23rd, AD 303** St George beheaded on the orders of Roman emperor Diocletian.
- 25th, 1284** Edward 2nd (first Prince of Wales) born in Caernarfon.

VAN-guard

Mair's Memorial Concert

I wish to express my heartfelt and grateful thanks to the Caerphilly Community Chorus for organising this event, and for the artists that performed in it. Matthew Tilly, Nigel Jones, Dan Phelps, Lee David Bowen, Julian Boyce and Volante Opera. I thank you.

The spontaneous comments by the individual performers was heart warming and for that I thank you all.

An audience of 140 was testament to the high esteem and respect that the community and Van Road United Reformed Church had for Mair and the appreciation of the effort that Mair had invested in them.

Mr Wayne David MP summed the concert up in his tribute to Mair, when he said that in the last twenty years, he had attended many concerts but tonight's "surpassed them all".

Finally, the concert raised £600.00 in aid of VAN-guard

John.



Young Wives
Mondays 7.30pm
All ladies, any age, welcome



April

1st No Meeting

8th AGM

**15th Rob and Diane Moverley
 Visit to Namibia**

22nd Mrs Chris Harling - Quiz Night

29th Mrs Carol Jones - Memories

A Rocha—Possible Easy Eco Tips for April

Fit more active travel into your daily routine. Re-evaluate your journeys, perhaps walking or cycling or modify your route e.g. disembark a stop early and walk the rest of the way. Indulge in a leisurely stroll and walk with others. As you travel pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel use.

Psalm 121- I Will Lift My Eyes to the Hills

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

LIFT HELP EYES HEAVEN EARTH
 FOOT SLUMBER SLEEP SHADE RIGHT
 HAND LORD GOING OUT EVERMORE
 HILLS KEEPER SUN MOON COMING IN
 EVIL LIFE NOW

From 'Smile Please' by Phil Mason

-Burial charges are to go up at the cemetery.

-The increased cost of living is blamed.

(From Kings Lynn Parish magazine)

-The preacher for next Sunday will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

-'The late Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, had a great sense of humour. He would have undoubtedly appreciated a report of his funeral in a national newspaper,-' His mother was a hairdresser and his roots were really important to him.'

FOODBANK

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

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 , soup and tea for example.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY

3rd April

10.30am

In aid of A Rocha (Eco Church)

ALL WELCOME!



CONCERT

in Aid of Blood Cancer UK

St Helen's Roman Catholic Church

Friday 26th April, 7pm

Featuring - The Rock Choir

Tenovus Chair

Soloist, Clare Davies

**Tickets £7.50 available from Johanna,
07989271761 or pay at the door.**

Lectionary Readings



April

7th

**Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1John 1:1-2:2;
John 20:19-31**

14th

**Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4: 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48**

21st

**Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18**

28th

**Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8**



Notes from Spring Synod 2024

The Spring Synod meeting was held online at the beginning of March. It was very much an information sharing meeting rather than a decision making meeting. There were presentations on Lay ministry, training opportunities including Stepwise, hearing the voice of young children, the and the General Elections, together with a reminder of the work of the Church in Rural Communities and heard of how a number of the Churches in the Synod are becoming more environmentally aware, through registering for Eco church, like Van Road, running Eco based events such as coffee mornings etc.

When considering our engagement with the forth coming General election , we were reminded of a number of General Assembly resolutions including:

When reflecting on poverty and inequality in the UK, it not only expressed concern in the light of the gospel call to challenge poverty and structures that cause marginalisation but challenges political leaders to commit to work to eradicate structural poverty and to challenge the stigmatisation and discrimination shown to those in poverty. Churches were also encouraged to raise these issues with their prospective MPs

Churches and members were encouraged to write to their MPs to express opposition to the illegal migration bill and encourage them to explore alternative legal routes for those seeking asylum. Assembly believes that those fleeing war or persecution should be treated fairly and compassionately irrespective of the situation which has brought them to our country, and again encourages Churches and members to write to their MPs to support this call.

When engaging with the General Election, there were some key points: Don't ignore it!; Call for action on poverty; Raise issues that matter to you; Spread the word about voting. On voting we were reminded that this will be the first time we will need to use voter ID and many people (often from disadvantaged backgrounds) may not be aware or have the necessary form of ID that it required, so we were encouraged to spread the word for the need for ID and offer support for those that may need it so that as many can be engaged in the elections as possible.

We were also pointed to a number of useful websites that can help inform us further.

- Join Public Issues Election Advice: jpit.uk/elections
- Election Advice from the CCBI: churcheselection.org.uk
- Let's End Poverty letsendpoverty.co.uk
- Refugee Action refugee-action.org.uk
- Voter Registration Champions voterchampion.org.uk

We also heard about a couple of Children's events that had happened around the Synod where those attending had the opportunity to share their views of Children in Church.

If anyone would like to see the full presentations on any of these topics do let me know and I can send them out.

Rob Moverley



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)

'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.



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



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

PRAISE

**Praise be to God
present this hour,
Praise be to God
provider of power,
Praise be to God
promising peace,
Praise be to God
promising release,
Praise be to God
perpetual friend,
Praise be to God
praise never end!**



Tim Tiley Ltd.

We hold in our prayers -



John Wade Rev Malcolm Shapland

Diana Hibbert 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 Pakistan and Libya. The
earthquake in Japan. The volcanic eruption in Iceland.
The uprising in Haiti.**

The leaders and people of Gaza and Israel.

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



**Commit to the Lord whatever you
do, and your plans will succeed.**

Proverbs 16:3